

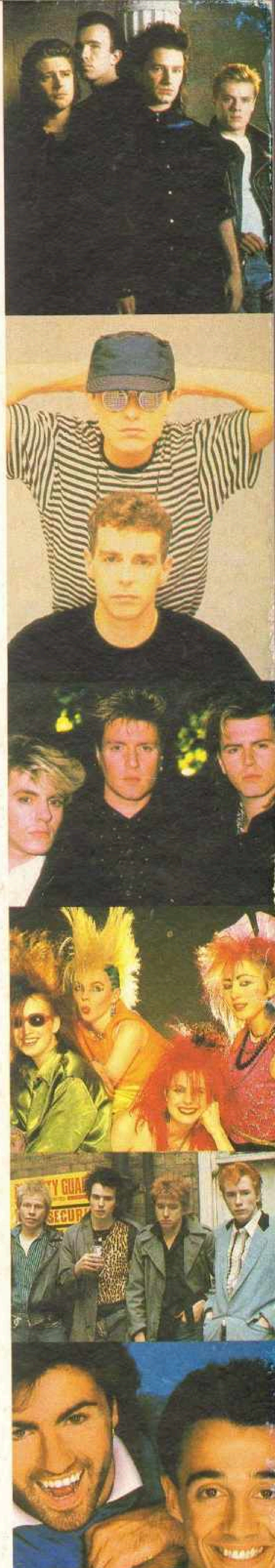
INCLUDES PULL - OUT POSTER

the SMASH HITS collection 1987

an A to Z of pop

PANINI 10TH ANNIVERSARY
Helping to make the breakthrough
cf
CYSTIC FIBROSIS

PANINI
STICKER ALBUM



HELP RAISE £50,000 FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS - DETAILS INSIDE

* the * SMASH HITS collection * 1987

Hello, pop toffs. Here it is again, the most splendid "happening" in the entire pop cosmiverse, namely the new *Smash Hits* Sticker Collection. This is the fourth edition, and it's even bigger and better than before: 200 full colour stickers to collect featuring 125 different groups and solo artists, loads of facts and information about each one, all arranged alphabetically so that it builds into a devastatingly useful "A to Z" of pop. Not only that, but there's an illustrated spook-history of dodgy rock'n'roll "artefacts" to gaze upon while you're filling the book in. And not only *that*, but there's an utterly free, entirely brilliant and very colourful poster in the middle which you can pull out and stick stickers onto or make into a nice hat or something. And you can even help charity while you're collecting – simply save your empty sticker packets, send them to Panini Stickers, and you'll be helping to raise £50,000 for the fight against the disease Cystic Fibrosis – *and* get a free badge into the bargain. Full details of how to do this are on the inside back cover.

* HOW TO COLLECT YOUR STICKERS

It's easy peasy. There's 200 stickers in all, and most good newsagents sell them. They come in packs of five, at just 20p per packet – a snip! It shouldn't cost too much to complete the collection, either – once you start swopping your spare stickers with your friends, it's amazing how quickly the book fills up. And if you're left with a few stubborn gaps at the end, don't fret – just write to Panini Stickers and order the ones you need. Full details are on the order form.

● DON'T FORGET – IF YOU SAVE YOUR EMPTY STICKER PACKETS YOU CAN HELP TO RAISE £50,000 FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS – *AND* GET A FREE BADGE. (DETAILS ARE ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER.) SO . . . GET STICKING!

● **EDITED AND DESIGNED BY VICI MACDONALD.**
● **Writers:** Lola Borg, Chris Heath, Ro Newton, Sylvia Patterson and William Shaw.

● All photos from **London Features International** unless credited otherwise.
● **Cover photos:** A-ha, Wham!, Fuzzbox, Sex Pistols, Housemartins/**LFI**; Nick Kamen, Bowie, U2, Morrissey/**Retna**; Duran Duran/**Denis O'Regan**; Five Star/**RCA**; Madonna/**WEA**; Pet Shop Boys/**Parlophone**.

contents

* A-HA *

● **A-HA: Mags Furoholmen** and **Pål Waaktaar** grew up as friends in the high rise flats of Manglerud, Norway, and before they were teenagers started playing recorders and tin plates, soon moving on to guitars and cheap synthesisers, calling their first group **Spider Empire**. At the age of 14 they were interviewed by a local newspaper and declared that they "were going to go abroad and become internationally famous pop stars". Not surprisingly, their classmates just laughed. In 1981 they released a self-financed LP under the name of **Bridges**. It was initially ignored – their classmates were right, it seemed. Still as determined as ever they packed their bags for England and blew their £2,000 savings trying in vain to interest British record companies. On their return they persuaded **Morten Harket**, singer in a soul/blues band called **Souldier Blue**, to join them. He agreed – as long as they wrote some songs before returning to Britain. So they holed themselves up in Pål's parents' summer cabin, lived off stolen plums (Morten strongly disapproving of this act of theft) and wrote lots of songs – some like "Nå Blåser Det På Jorden" long forgotten, others, like one called "Lesson One", to be very important later on. Full of hope they returned at the beginning of 1983, lived in a tiny flat smelling of cat poo, ate yumlicious salt-and-pepper sandwiches, became so poor they could only afford one light bulb (if one of them wanted to go to the loo he had to take it with him), had arguments and eventually got a record contract. They dusted down that old song "Lesson One", wrote some new words, called it "Take On Me", released it and . . . it flopped. Much sobbing. So they re-recorded it, re-released it and . . . it flopped again. Even more sobbing. So much, in fact, that the band split, only reforming in an awful hurry when they discovered that their American record company actually rather *liked* "Take On Me" and wanted to make a very expensive £100,000 semi-animated video for it. The rest, as they say, is history. It reached number two in Britain, number one in most of the world and the follow ups – "The Sun Always Shines On TV", "Train Of Thought" and "Hunting High And Low" – did nearly as well. They started a huge world tour, the whole world went A-ha mad, their second, much weirder LP "Scoundrel Days" also sold several squillion copies and they are, at the moment, one of the most popular groups in the entire known universe (or something).



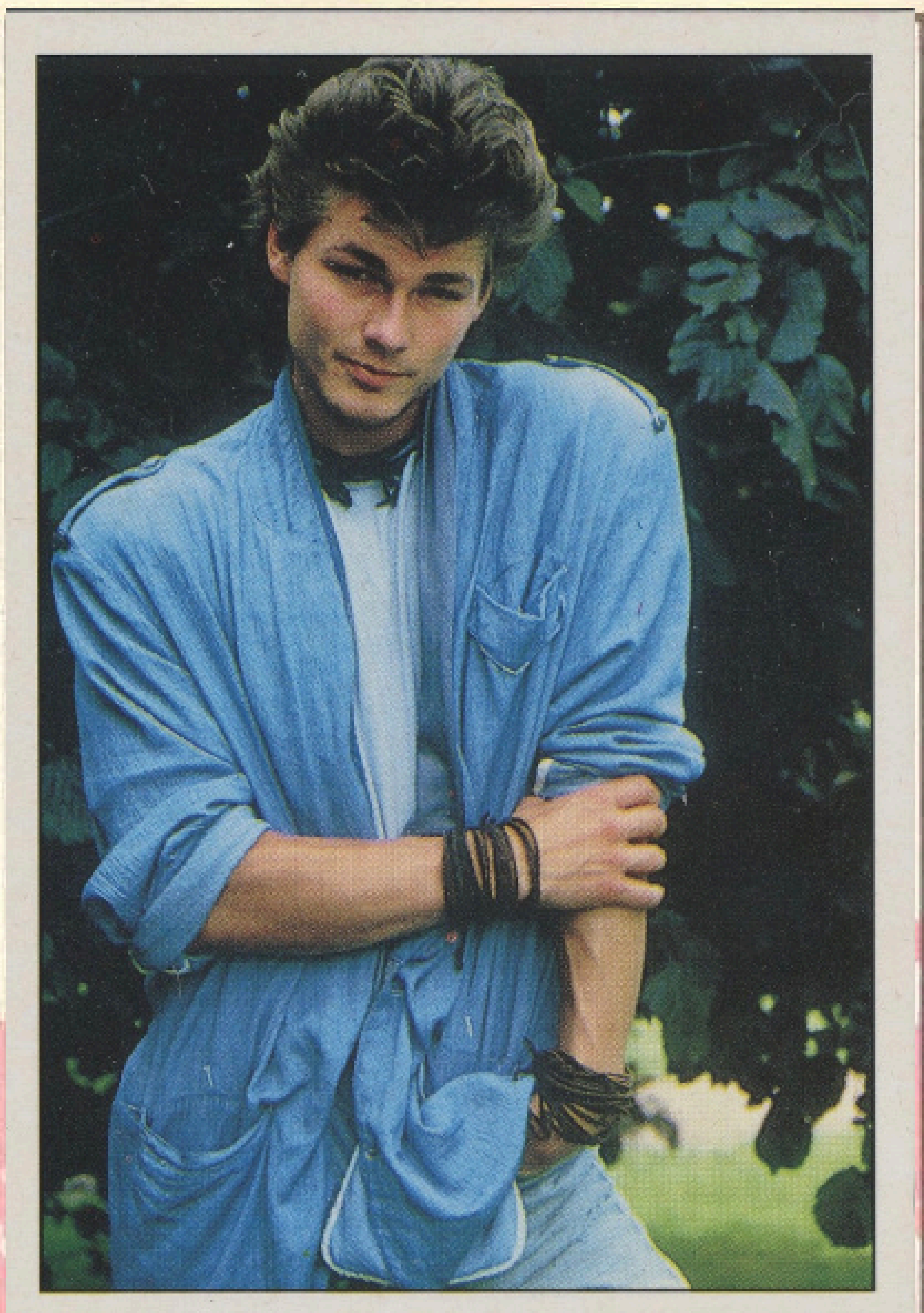
PICTORIAL PRESS

● Background: A trendy trio from a record sleeve of 1959, which – spook! – is the year of Morten Harket's birth.

A

A-HA







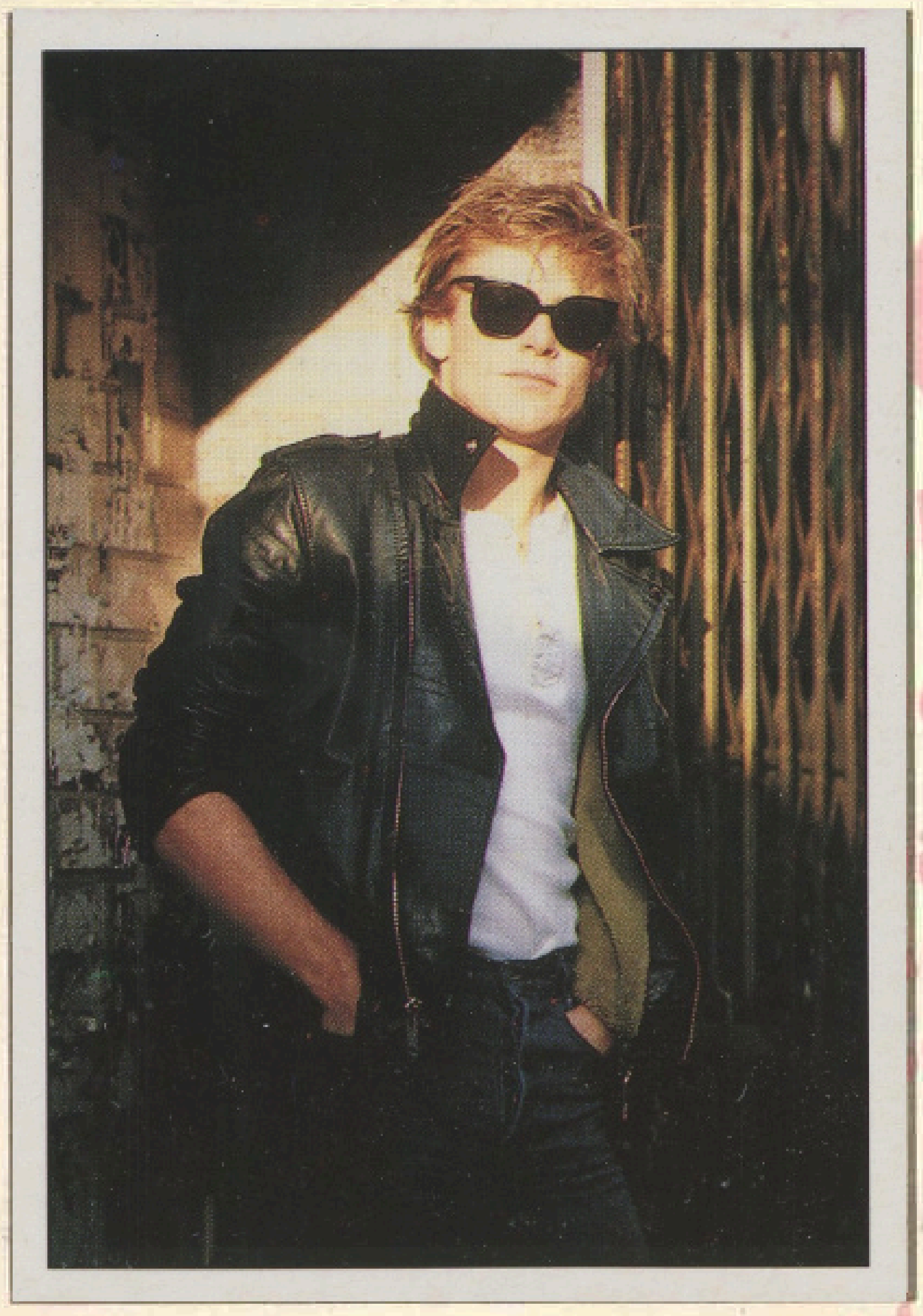
● **MORTEN:** born **Morten Harket** on 14/9/59 in Königsberg, Norway, he has an elder brother, two younger brothers and a younger sister. His father is a doctor and his mother a teacher. Apart from **Souldier Blue** he was also in bands called **Mercy** and **Laelia Anceps** (a type of orchid) and fitted in time working in a mental hospital, doing his national service and studying theology (he still professes to be a Christian). When not singing he apparently enjoys climbing trees and watching orchids grow. At the moment he only sings – he hasn't yet contributed to any of the song-writing, explaining: "My self-discipline is terrible when it comes to working . . . I guess I'm really a dreamer."

● **MAGS:** born **Magne Furuholmen** on 1/11/62 in Oslo, Norway, he has a younger sister and two younger half-brothers. His mother works as an "information secretary"; his father, a musician in Bent Solve's Orchestra, was killed in a plane crash when Mags was five. During his teens he grew his hair, listened to rock artists like **Jimi Hendrix** and **The Doors** and became a hippie and "an avowed anarchist". He also used to enjoy drawing – turning out "grotesque abstract creations" – and nearly left the band at one stage to go to art school. Although he's very serious deep down, he is constantly branded the "joker" of the group. As Pål says, "I think he's either a fool or a genius."

● **PÅL:** Born **Pål Gamst Waaktaar** on 6/9/61 in Oslo, Norway, he has one elder sister. His father is a medical research scientist and his mother works in hospital administration. Like Mags, during his youth he was a bit of a hippie, and attended school so infrequently that his teachers called him "the guest". To this day very shy, his first kiss wasn't till he was 18 and even *that* was from Mags' girlfriend. He now goes out with American neuro-science student **Lauren** and says of the first A-ha album, "Hunting High And Low", "all the songs were written in an attempt to secure a place in her heart for me . . . every song is a prayer for attention." Aaah . . .

BRYAN ADAMS

● **BRYAN ADAMS:** born 5/11/59 in Ontario, Canada, Bryan rejected his English parents' military background and decided to "rock'n'roll". He broke through in Britain at the end of 1984 with "Run To You", and since then has written the Canadian Band Aid record, "Tears Are Not Enough", and worked with **Tina Turner** and **Bonnie Tyler**. In fact he was even rumoured to be "dating" Tina Turner (20 years his senior), but actually goes out with **Vicki Russell**, daughter of the arty and eccentric film director, **Ken Russell**. Bryan, despite his tough macho "rocker" image, actually writes decent pop tunes, is extremely polite and has such strong principles that he withdrew a song from the *Top Gun* soundtrack (which would have made him pots of money) in protest at its glorification of the military, especially in light of the American bombing of Libya.



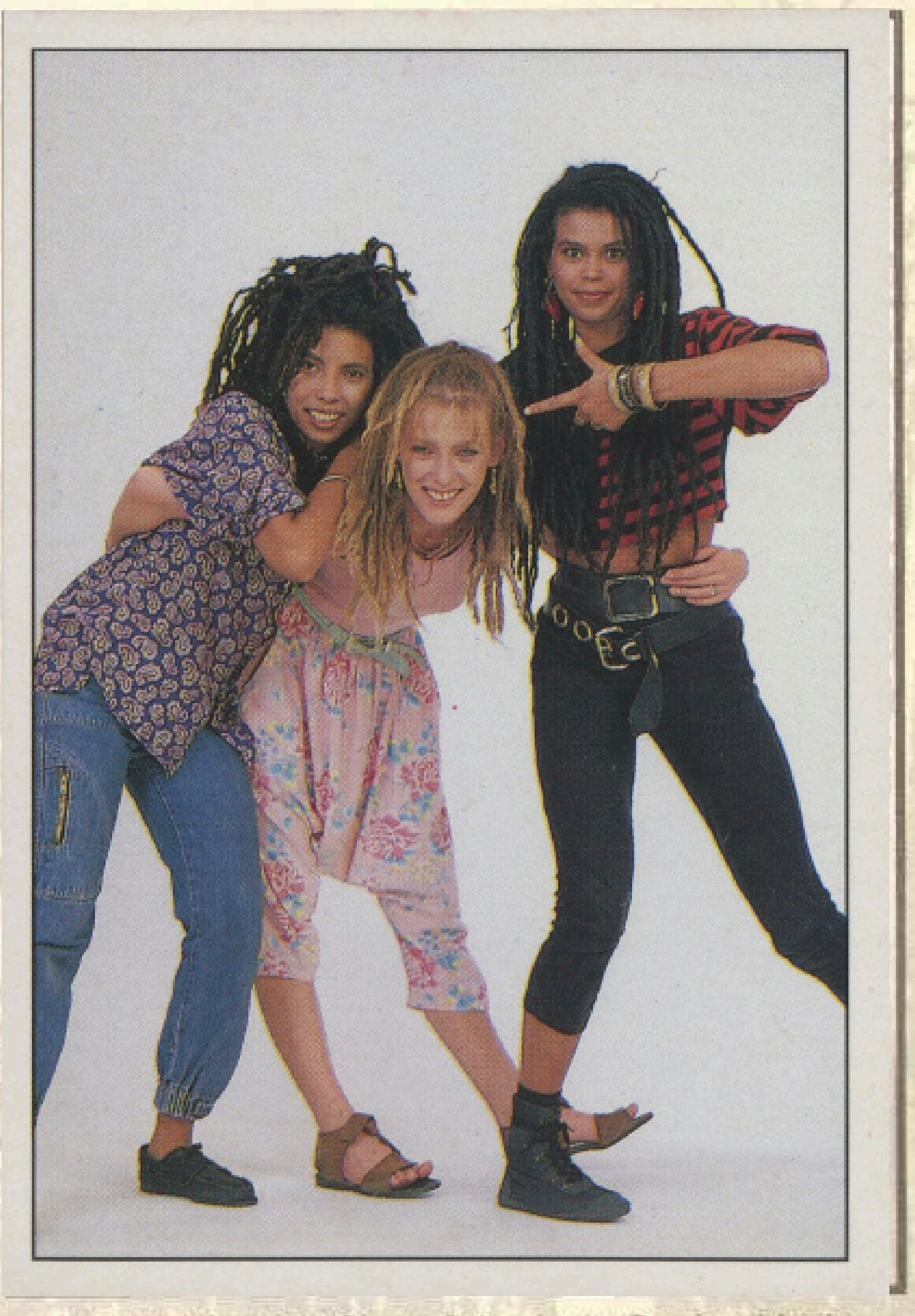
THE ALARM

● **THE ALARM: Nigel Twist** (drums), **Mike Peters** (vocals), **Dave Sharp** (guitar) and **Eddie MacDonald** (bass) have been mates since 1977. Based in the seaside town of Rhyl in North Wales, they used to be known as **17** (a group which they now say "jumped on every bandwagon and sold their souls"), until a wise word from **Kevin Rowland** of **Dexys Midnight Runners** persuaded them to split and The Alarm were born. They've tried to follow in the footsteps of bands like **U2** and **Big Country**: "Integrity, honesty and passion are highest on our list of priorities," says Mike. Maybe, but record sales have always eluded them; since their hit single, "68 Guns", they've had little chart success. Mike won't lose faith: "We're dedicated people and we want to give a bit of ourselves, a bit of inspiration."



▲ **The Alarm, left to right: Nigel "Twist" Twist, Mike Peters, Dave Sharp and Eddie MacDonald.**

AMAZULU



▲ **Amazulu, left to right: Sharon Bailey, Lesley Beach and Annie Ruddock.**

● **AMAZULU:** Originally a seven-piece, hippie-ish, vaguely political and *not* very successful reggae band, Amazulu "amicably" dumped four members last year "for financial reasons", though they still play at live concerts. The remaining three members – Liverpudlian saxophonist **Lesley Beach**, South American percussionist **Sharon Bailey** (the two who originally formed the group) and London born Chinese/Jamaican singer **Anne Marie Ruddock** (known simply as Annie) – have had rather more luck, while staying true to the group's reputation for jolly bubble-gum reggae tunes, mostly cover versions of old songs like "Too Good To Be Forgotten" and "Montego Bay".

A must for every
have it by return from :

B

BANANARAMA



▲ Bananarama, left to right: Keren Woodward, Sarah Dallen and Siobhan Fahey.

● **BANANARAMA:** got together in September 1979 when **Siobhan Fahey** and **Sarah Dallen** were at journalism college together in London and **Keren Woodward** was working at the BBC. Their first hit, "It Ain't What You Do", was a joint effort with the **Fun Boy Three** but they struck out on their own with "Shy Boy". Although they've notched up regular hit records, the girls have always been criticized by the press, who have accused them of being "empty-headed" and "talentless". "You get in danger of believing what they write," says Siobhan, "but we *know* we are good and, what's more, we love each other." Bananarama used to live next door to each other in London town houses and be very matey *indeed*, but now marriage "beckons" – in fact Keren has just had a baby!

THE BANGLES

● **THE BANGLES:** formed in 1981 under the name **The Bangs** (a long-forgotten '60s hair-do) and used to make a racket in **Susanna Hoffs**' parents' garage playing the '60s pop that they all liked so much. Soon they changed their name to The Bangles (after a fuss was kicked up by another group called The Bangs), their original bass player left and The Bangles settled on their current line up: sisters **Vicki** and **Debbi Peterson** (guitarist/singer and drummer/singer respectively), Susanna Hoffs (guitarist/singer) and **Michael Steele** (a girl – bassist and singer). Their first LP "All Over the Place", didn't sell well but found them some famous fans like **Madonna** (heard enthusing about them at her aerobics class) and **Prince**. In fact His Royal Purpleness was so impressed that he wrote them a song, "Manic Monday", (using the pseudonym "Christopher") which gave them their first big hit. In return they have revealed that Prince "always smells nice" and is "a little crispy round the edges" (i.e. he's mad).



CBS

▲ The Bangles, left to right: Vicki Peterson, Susanna Hoffs, Michael Steele and Debbi Peterson.



CBS

▲ Susanna Hoffs not eating a bug.

● **SUSANNA HOFFS:** born 17/1/61 to hippie-ish American parents, her father, a psychoanalyst, and her mother, a painter, own the next door beach house to **Sean Penn** and **Madonna** in the ultra-swanky American coastal resort of Malibu. After a "normal" Californian childhood – **The Beatles** and "slumber parties" but not surfing ("somehow I never learned to do it") – Susanna first played in a band with her boyfriend of the time, **David Roback**, as **The Psychiatrists** – "very, er, conceptual". She reckons she was fated to meet Prince – he phones her up occasionally and gave her a huge guitar-shaped cake and some special perfumed soap on her 25th birthday – and says she's fairly sure that the most horrible thing she's ever eaten is a bug. "I don't remember but I'm *sure* I've had a bug in a salad," she pipes fascinatingly.

THE BEATLES



▲ The Beatles quite a long time ago, left to right: Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and the late John Lennon.

● **THE BEATLES:** **Paul McCartney** (bass), **John Lennon** (guitar), **George Harrison** (guitar) and **Ringo Starr** (drums) were the first British pop group ever to achieve immense fame the planet over. Liverpool's "Fab Four", as they were called, recorded their first hit, "Love Me Do", in 1962, and in the following eight years they went on to make 19 albums and notch up a staggering 17 number one hits (a record matched only by **Elvis Presley**). During these years their records changed from being just jolly pop songs and became increasingly experimental, culminating in the legendary – and still very influential – "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" LP. They even became the first pop stars ever to be awarded the MBE (though John Lennon returned his to the Queen in protest). However, during this time the pressure of their previously unimaginable fame seems to have sent them increasingly bonkers: one moment they were all tripping off to India to study transcendental meditation, the next they were squandering millions of pounds in setting up their own record label, Apple, and then losing even *more* money because it was so badly run.

Their partnership couldn't last, of course; the group split up acrimoniously in 1970 amidst lawsuits and petty squabbles. After they disbanded Ringo Starr gave up music and tried his hand unsuccessfully at films; George Harrison released a few stupendously boring LPs then gave up music too and set up his own successful film company; and Paul McCartney, an astute businessman, has made pots of money, first with his group **Wings**, and now solo. "They've started studying The Beatles in schools," he gasps. "You can do a GCE in Beatles! Imagine that!" Tragically, John Lennon was assassinated when on the verge of a musical comeback in 1981.

● **Background: Just a couple of the weird and wonderful Beatles thingies you could buy in the early '60s.**

B

BERLIN

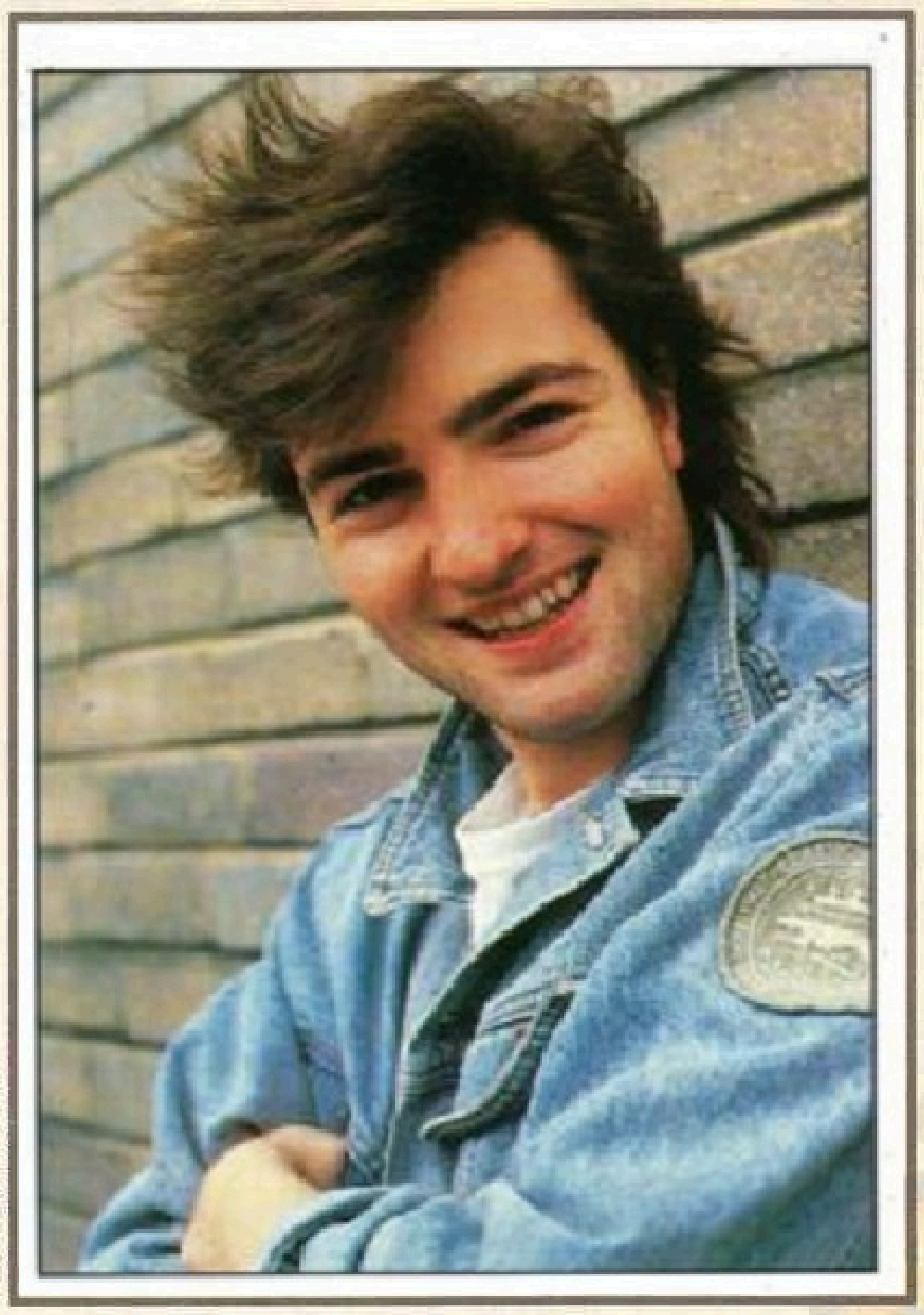


CBS

● **BERLIN:** They appeared from nowhere at the end of 1986 to have a number one hit with "Take My Breath Away" – the theme song from the film *Top Gun*. Despite their name, the group have nothing whatsoever to do with Germany – in fact they're American and come from Los Angeles. Singer **Terri Nunn** gave up selling "sleazy" doughnuts when she met **John Crawford**, the founder of Berlin, and promptly joined the group. Terri's a weird girl whose past history includes acting in episodes of *Lou Grant* ("cult" TV series about a newspaper), almost acting in an episode of *Dallas*, and losing most of her hair due to eating too many hotdogs. This seems to have affected her profoundly – "One day," she says, "when I've gathered more experience, age and wisdom, I hope to write a book on nutrition."

◄ **Berlin, left to right: John Crawford and Terri Nunn looking moodsome.**

NICK BERRY



PEOPLE IN PICTURES

● **NICK BERRY:** More commonly known as **Wicksy**, the jack-the-lad barman in Britain's most avidly-watched soap opera, *EastEnders*, Nick claims that in real life he is "not really anything like" the character he plays. An ex-librarian and despatch rider, he started acting at 14 (he's now 25), and had loads of bit-parts, including one in the dodgy new-wave/"comedy" film *Party Party*, until *EastEnders* shot him to national fame. As Wicksy, he tinkered around on the piano in the pub, and the moony ballad he played, "Every Loser Wins", was number one for three weeks in October 1986. "That says something for recording studios, the good old echo machine," he trills. "I don't think I've got a very good voice – people tell me not to be modest but it doesn't sound very good to *me*!"

BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE



▲ **B.A.D., left to right: Greg Roberts, Mick Jones, Leo Williams, Don Letts and Dan Donovan.**

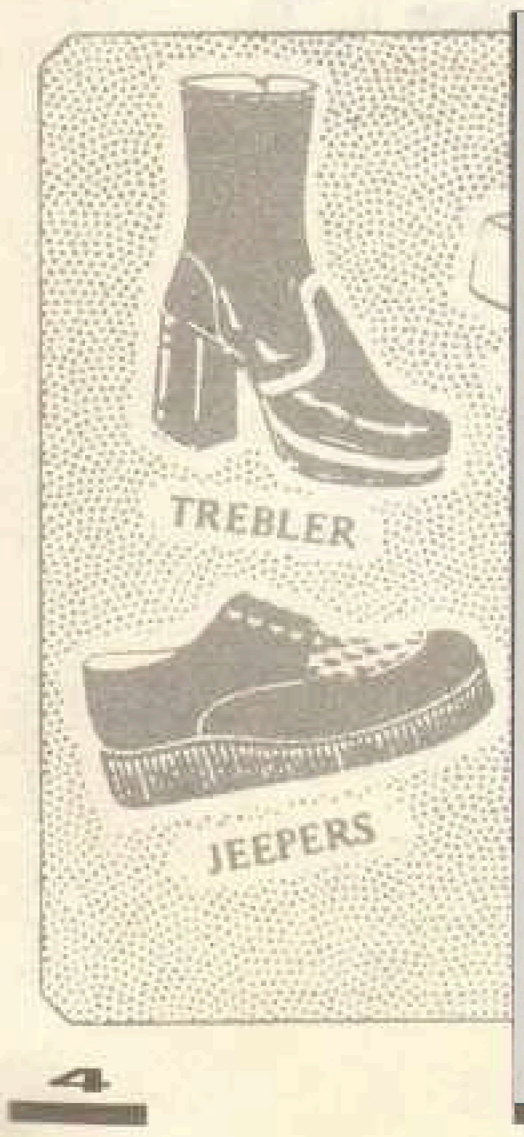
● **BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE:**
● Are led by **Mick Jones**, who used to be in famed punk group **The Clash** and claims he wrote B.A.D.'s first hit, "E=Mc²", with long-dead physicist **Albert Einstein**.
● Keyboards player **Don Letts** used to be a film maker and admits he's such a useless musician that he's got coloured stickers on the keys "so I can see what notes to play."
● Drummer **Greg Roberts** once went to Venezuela to record an LP and likes "sleeping".
● Keyboard player **Dan Donovan** is the son of v. famous photographer **Terence Donovan** and used to be a fashion photographer himself.
● Bass player **Leo Williams** used to be in experimental reggae group **Basement 5** and was supposedly discovered "on a dance floor in New York".

BIG COUNTRY



▲ **Big Country, left to right: Mark "Unpronounceablename", Stuart Adamson, Bruce Watson and Tony Butler.**

● **BIG COUNTRY:** are the brainchild of **Stuart Adamson**, who left **The Skids** to start writing songs with guitarist **Bruce Watson**. Drummer **Mark** "unpronounceablename" **Brzezicki** and bassist **Tony Butler** were originally hired as "session" musicians, but were so impressed that they gave up their steady jobs to join the group. By the time their second single, "Fields Of Fire", reached the Top 10, Big Country were being hailed as a "new inspiration". Here were a band who believed music should be about "raising the spirits" and using "traditional instruments", and they even wore checked shirts. After four years of success, only the checked shirts have changed; their music remains much the same. Stuart Adamson isn't bothered: "We like to give people hope and optimism – you'll never find *us* playing the horrible pop star game," he says.





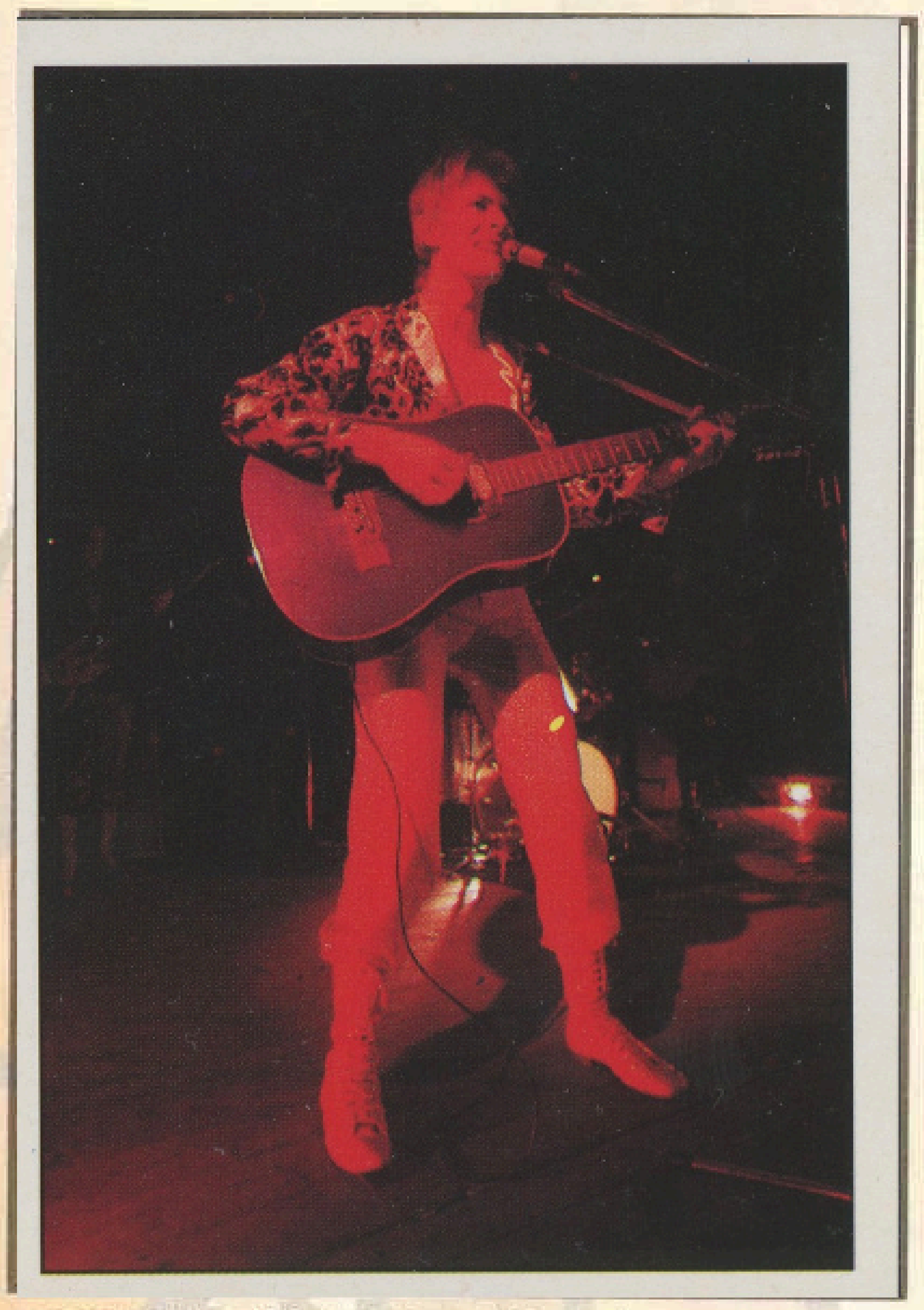
BON JOVI

● **BON JOVI:** are five hairy blokes from New Jersey in America – **Jon Bon Jovi** (his real name), **David Bryan**, **Tico Torres**, **Richie Sambora** and **Alec John Such**. The group was formed by a disillusioned Jon in 1983 after useless jobs in a junk shop, a fast food store and a shoe-shop – from where he was eventually given the boot for pretending to be **Bruce Springsteen** during working hours. Having fantasised about being a "rock star" all his life ("At school I had a red, white and blue cardboard guitar with 'Elton' written along the bottom because I always thought **Elton John** should have been a guitar player," he once said obscurely), Jon and his band played for absolutely nought pence in the beginning – just for "the love of rock 'n' roll". Now hugely successful in America and getting that way in Britain, Bon Jovi get in a severe huff when accused that they're the **Duran Duran** of heavy rock – "Oh *God*! Oh my God *no*! Who said that? Oh please *no*," stutters Jon disbelievingly. "We're the furthest thing removed from that glam scene – the *furthest*!"

◄ **Bon Jovi, left to right: Richie Sambora, Alec John Such, Jon Bon Jovi, Tico Torres and David Bryan.**

B

DAVID BOWIE



▲ David Bowie in 1972, at the time of "Starman".



RETNA

▲ David Bowie last year, in the video for *Absolute Beginners*.

● **DAVID BOWIE:** In a career that's lasted over 20 years, David Bowie has changed his style and image more frequently than any other pop star. Born **Robert David Jones** in Brixton on 8/1/47, he adopted the name David Bowie after several unsuccessful attempts at stardom and finally cracked it with the song "Space Oddity" in 1969. His next really big hit was with "Starman" in 1972, and at this time he developed an outrageously flamboyant and sexual stage act based around an imaginary character called **Ziggy Stardust**. At the time nothing like this had ever been seen, and he influenced a whole generation of youngsters; musicians as diverse as **The Sex Pistols**, **Duran Duran** and **Simple Minds** have admitted their debt to him.

In 1974 his fans reeled when he announced his retirement from music; however he was soon back with a new look and a new sound, since when he's maintained a continuous stream of hits (though many people feel he's never matched the brilliance of his early work). He's recorded songs with **Lulu**, **Queen**, **Bing Crosby**, **John Lennon** and many others and, although he's not a particularly good actor, is one of very few pop artistes who've succeeded in the film world: his credits include *Labyrinth*, *Absolute Beginners*, *The Hunger* and *The Man Who Fell To Earth*.

● **Some "astonishing" Bowie facts:**

● The pupil of his left eye was paralysed after a school fight over a girl. To this day, one of his eyes is blue, the other greyish green.

● He has a scar on his inner leg where he ran himself over crank-starting a car.

● In 1972 he told a reporter that he was bi-sexual.

● He called his son **Zowie** who, years later, changed the name to **Joe**.

● He's often been photographed wearing dresses.

● He used to be a buddhist.

● **Background: A selection of 1974's most fashionable footwear – giant platform boots.**

BOY GEORGE



RETNA

● **BOY GEORGE:** is a man for whom the term 'gender-bender' seems invented. He is also a man whose career the tabloid papers helped to make and now seem determined to break. Born in 1961, **George O'Dowd**, as he was originally named, spent several years living in squats and gadding about London's trendy night-clubs before becoming the lead singer of **Culture Club** in 1981. The group's success was almost instant and certainly total: by the end of 1983 Culture Club had had two massively successful albums and a string of hit singles all over the world. Boy George, who at first had shocked people with his outrageous and androgynous appearance, became the delight of chat-show hosts, thanks to his wicked way with words. The "news"papers, too, were mad about him – even a change of hairstyle would land him on the front pages and he was renowned for statements such as "I prefer a nice cup of tea to sex" (which he later admitted wasn't really true).

In early 1986, though, he was to claim "I'm sick of being a pop-star. I know I could be famous again if I *wanted*, but I can't be bothered." Culture Club's third LP released in 1985, had flopped and George's fame (and notoriety) were taking their toll: even though the group's output was virtually nil last year, Boy George was rarely out of the news, mainly due to his highly publicised flirtation with drugs which he at first denied and later admitted. "Basically I'm a bit of a tragedy queen," he once said in jest, and now these words have come true . . .



BILLY BRAGG



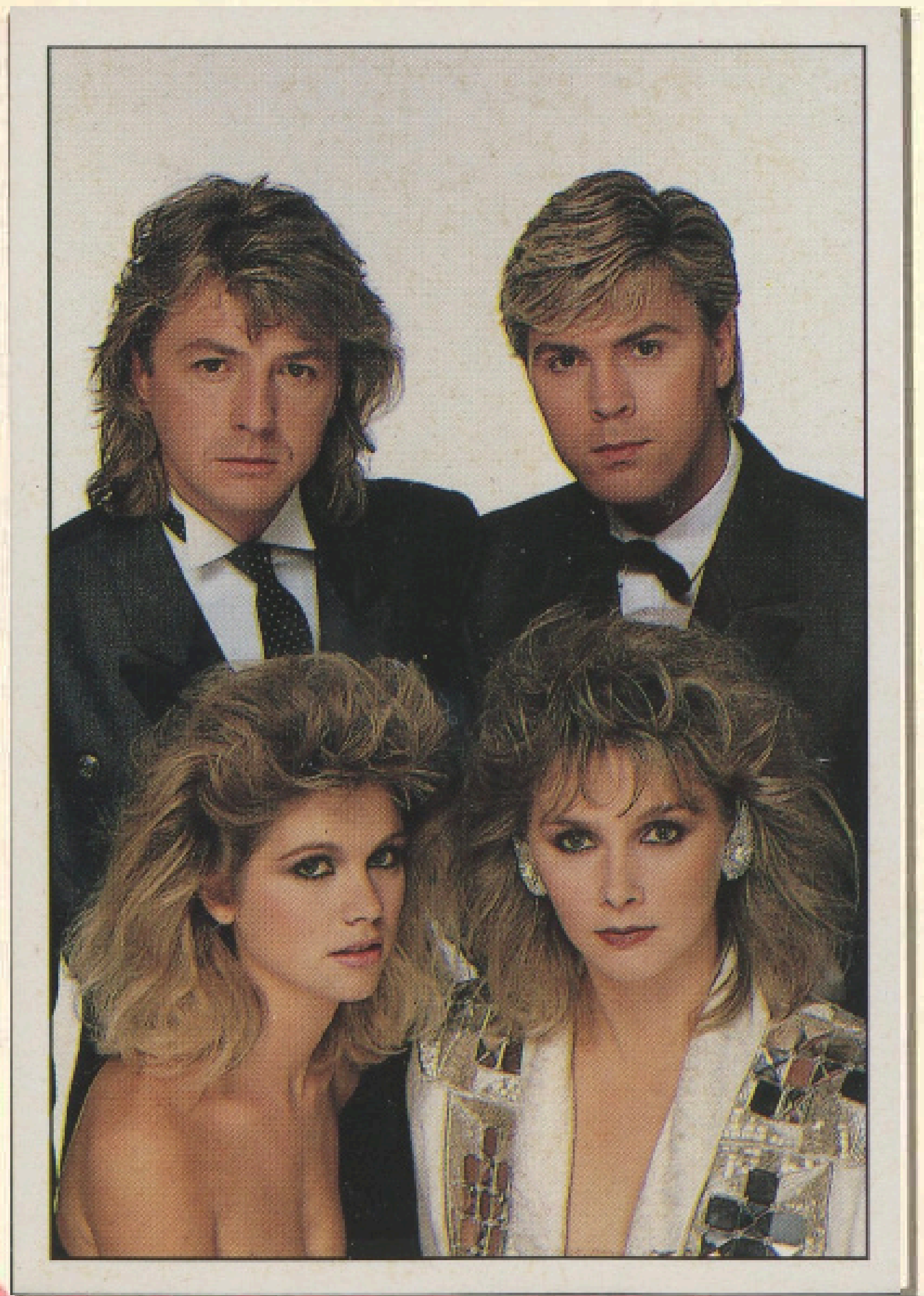
RETNA

● **BILLY BRAGG:** born 20/12/58, Billy is a charming and affable socialist singer/song-writer from Barking in Essex. He sings in his gravelly fashion mostly of staunch left-wing idealism, but also of unrequited love and general sadness – "Like everybody else, I'm a tortured soul." Slightly perturbed by his "spokesman for a generation" tag – "What can *I* do?" he asks bemusedly – Billy nonetheless feels his existence is a useful one. "As long as people still write to me saying 'you're great' or 'go back to Russia, you raving commie', I'll still feel of some use. The day I'm ignored is the day I'll just . . . disappear."

● Background: "Way out special holiday offers" (hem hem) for hippies, from 1973.

B

BUCKS FIZZ



▲ Bucks Fizz, left to right: Bobby Gee, Mike Nolan (back), Shelley Preston and Cheryl Baker (front).

● **BUCKS FIZZ:** The four original members — **Cheryl Baker, Jay Aston, Bobby Gee** (born Bobby Gubby) and **Mike Nolan** — were brought together for the 1981 Eurovision Song Contest which they won with a "saucy" dance routine and the jauntalong "Making Your Mind Up". They've since survived the twin blows of a serious coach crash at the end of 1984 in which Mike Nolan nearly died and the extremely acrimonious departure of Jay Aston at the beginning of 1985, which resulted in a long court case. They soon bounced back with a new member, **Shelley Preston**, who was chosen from a giant audition of hopeful blondes. Cheryl Baker, incidentally, also acts and appears on TV shows like *The Saturday Picture Show*, demonstrating hilariously useless *Blue Peter*-style cooking and giggling a lot.

KATE BUSH



PICTORIAL PRESS

● **KATE BUSH:** born 30/7/58, the shy, slightly hippie-ish doctor's daughter was discovered at 16 and launched at 18 with "Wuthering Heights". That shot to number one and she was soon famous for her eccentric, arty dance routines, her strange squeaky voice and her tendency to say "wow" and "amazing" every other word. Through the years however she has matured and earned a reputation as one of the most individual and innovative artists in pop music, at her best on her 1985 LP "The Hounds Of Love". She has been going out with musician **Del Palmer** for some years; apart from that she keeps her private life a closely guarded secret.

C

CAMEO



PHONOGRAM

● **CAMEO:** These days Cameo are a trio — **Larry Blackmon, Nathan Leftenant** and **Tomi Jenkins** — though basically the group are just the centrepiece of Atlanta-based American Larry Blackmon's planned musical empire (his other biggest success so far has been with **Cashflow**, who had a huge hit last year with "Mine All Mine"). Cameo released endless albums in America and took on as many as 11 members before the trimmed-down line-up sneaked into the British charts with "She's Strange" in 1984. Their fame was multiplied last year by the infectious "Word Up", and particularly by the shiny red cod-piece Larry wore in the accompanying video and TV performances. An extremely ambitious character, Larry is apparently obsessed by work and only breaks his round-the-clock labours to do strenuous physical exercise routines with the rest of the band.

◄ Cameo, top to bottom: Tomi Jenkins, Nathan Leftenant and Larry Blackmon.

✱ CHINA CRISIS ✱



VIRGIN

▲ China Crisis, left to right: Gary Daly, Eddie Lundon, a guitar and a spook-beard.

● **CHINA CRISIS:**
● Are **Gary Daly** and **Eddie Lundon**, both of whom come from Liverpool.
● They claim to have come up with their name whilst relaxing in a pub — something to do with Eddie's school nickname, "Chink", apparently.
● When they first met, Eddie was a "tough nut" and didn't get on with Gary — "he was a bit of a hippie, a strange person."
● They've had sizeable hits with records like "Christian" and "Wishful Thinking", although recent releases such as "Arizona Sky" haven't done too well.
● They've often been branded as wimps because of their swirly, slightly acoustic music. "No one's ever said it to our faces, though," fumes Gary. "If they *did*, we'd knock them to the floor."
● Gary likes singing in fields — "It's an amazing feeling. It may sound really dippy but it isn't."
● Eddie is a member of the Labour Party, but thinks "music is supposed to be enjoyed, not about fighting for things."
● They once admitted that even *they* don't know what their bizarre lyrics mean!

*COCTEAU TWINS



● **COCTEAU TWINS:** Famous for their wispy feather-light music and their personal stubbornness, the Cocteau Twins these days consist of **Liz Fraser** (wailsome warbling) with boyfriend **Robin Guthrie** (guitar) and **Simon Raymonde** (bass). Robin and Liz got together in 1980 with original bassist **Will**, who left a couple of years later. Simon was recruited, they had a hit with "Pearly-Dewdrops' Drops" and have continued making much the same beautiful swirly noise ever since. Very private and reserved, there's nothing they like less than talking about what they do. "We're just the sort of people who get on with it," explains Robin. "And," adds Liz helpfully, "we don't know anything about our music."

◄ Cocteau Twins, left to right: Liz Fraser, Simon Raymonde and Robin Guthrie.

THE COMMUNARDS



▲ The Communards: Jimmy Somerville (left) and Richard Coles.

● **THE COMMUNARDS:** When choirboy-voiced singer **Jimmy Somerville** stormed out of **Bronski Beat** in 1985 after months of inter-group bickering (the other members had described him as "a million dollar socialist"), he decided to form The Communards with classically trained pianist **Richard Coles**. But though they quickly gained something of a reputation as spokesmen for the gay movement, and as highly active participants in the Labour Party's Red Wedge movement alongside **Paul Weller**, it took Jimmy well over one-and-half-years to get back into the charts with The Communards' cover version of the soul "classic", "Don't Leave Me This Way". 1986 saw them touring successfully with an all-woman backing group, and enlisting the help of vocalist **Sarah Jane Morris**. Oddly, Jimmy now declares that "our ultimate aim is to be **Bucks Fizz**".

JULIAN COPE



● **JULIAN COPE:** "I don't want to be this off-your-box type any more," announced Julian Cope last year as he returned to the charts for the first time in ages with "World Shut Your Mouth". If he's telling the truth then he's certainly changed. Back in the '70s he shared a Liverpool flat and band (**The Crucial Three**) with **Pete Wylie** and **Echo & The Bunnymen**'s **Ian McCulloch** before making two brilliant LPs and becoming a pop star with **The Teardrop Explodes**. After that he went seriously squiffy, insisted for a while that his name was **Kevin Stapleton**, released two strange solo LPs full of beautiful, psychedelic ramblings, had his photo taken naked with a tortoise shell on his back and even once announced that he thought he was a city centre. The new "not-off-my-box" Julian Cope lives in Tamworth with his second wife **Dorian**, goes speed-walking and collects *Dinky Toys*.

◄ Julian Cope being weird.

ELVIS COSTELLO*



● **ELVIS COSTELLO:** born **Declan Patrick McManus** on 25/8/54, "Elvis" is the son of **Ross McManus**, singer in **The Joe Loss Orchestra**. He pinched the name Costello from his great grandmother and Elvis from **Elvis Presley** in 1977. Before that he had already played in a dodgy pub rock group whose name had changed from **Mothertruckers** to **The Bizario Brothers** to **Flip City** and had married his first wife, **Mary**. He was immediately successful with his first album, "My Aim Is True", on which he was backed by **Huey Lewis's** band at the time, **Clover***(see page 17)*, while Huey took a holiday. After that he started his own group, **The Attractions**, which has lasted on and off to this day. Through the years he has covered a remarkable variety of musical styles but throughout them all has growled wry, witty and often bitter lyrics and is considered by many to be the best songwriter in Britain today. These days he lives in London with **The Pogues'** ex-bass player, **Cait O'Riordan**.



THE CULT

● **THE CULT:** They began existence as the mohican-haired **Southern Death Cult**, became the gloomsome **Death Cult** and finally metamorphosed into a hippified troupe named The Cult i.e. four northern chaps called **Ian Astbury**, **Billy Duffy**, **Jamie Stewart** and **Les Warner**. Labelled an "alternative" group, they defied obscurity with the glorious manic swirl of "She Sells Sanctuary" and the hit singles "Rain" and "Revolution" — though they were slagged mercilessly for the latter two's stonking heavy metal riffs (man). Unperturbed, The Cult continue to appear a cross between goths and hippies and ramble on at great length about Red Indians for some reason. "We've only so much space in our heads," they say. "The Cult is like our baby. We've gone through the crawling stage — now we're ready to run!"

◄ The Cult, left to right: Billy Duffy, Jamie Stewart, Les Warner and Ian Astbury.

C THE CURE



▲ "Mad" Bob Smith throwing a "shape".

● **THE CURE:** The only two constant members of The Cure have been singer/songwriter/guitarist **Robert Smith** and drummer/keyboard player **Lol** (Laurence) **Tolhurst**, who were childhood friends in Crawley, Sussex and first played together in a "sub-metal punk group" called **Malice**. By their late teens they were **The Fast Cure** and then The Cure. At that time they played scratchy pop songs but subsequently they became "a very morose bunch of chaps" who made immensely slow, gloomy dirges. In 1982 The Cure silently disintegrated and Robert took a six month break before returning with a series of half-serious pop singles such as "The Walk" and "The Lovecats" which gave them their first big hits. At the same time he joined **Siouxsie and the Banshees** for a while as guitarist and also made an album with the Banshees' **Steve Severin** under the name **The Glove** . The Cure's line-up settled in 1985 to the five scruffy-haired eccentrics below – though Robert ruined even *that* by shaving his head towards the end of last year.

● **Four "weird" things about Robert Smith:**
● When he was small he unwisely took the "advice" of Kevin, the next door delinquent, and lobbed a brick through the window of a passing car.
● When he was 11 he went to an experimental school and when he turned up one day in a black velvet dress for a dare they ignored it as "something I had to sort out". But he got beaten up for wearing it on the way home anyway.
● He spends a lot of time lying down, explaining: "If I'm upright I just sway and it's quite funny looking at the world like this because you can see up people's noses."
● He claims that when he's home he never switches on the telephone bell, just picks up the receiver every now and then when he's passing it to see if anyone's there.



◄ The Cure, left to right: Porl Thompson, Simon Gallup, Robert Smith, Boris Williams and Lol Tolhurst.

CUTTING CREW



▲ Cutting Crew, left to right: Kevin MacMichael, Nick Van Eede, Colin Farley and Martin Beedle.

● **CUTTING CREW:** are **Nick Van Eede** (Canadian), **Kevin MacMichael**, **Martin "Frosty" Beedle** and **Colin "Mirrorman" Farley** (all from Surrey). The group began when Nick was trundling along some by-way in Canada with his previous group and suddenly – cruuunch! – their car went over a cliff. The rest of the group were required to go to hospital for a very long time while Nick escaped unscathed but groupless. And that's when he met the Surrey "lads" and they turned into Cutting Crew who, after some not-very-successful singles, soared to chart "stardom" with "I Just Died In Your Arms Tonight" and "I've Been In Love Before". Interesting pop fact: Nick Van Eede once skied rather swiftly down a snowy slope in an attempt to impress the watching women. He didn't because he hit a tree.

D

THE DAMNED



▲ The Damned, left to right: Bryn Merrick, Roman Jugg (back), Rat Scabies and Dave Vanian (front).

● **THE DAMNED:** In 1976 they released the first ever punk rock single, "New Rose"; nowadays they're far more successful than they've ever been, though in the intervening 11 years they've split up, reformed, undergone millions of changes in membership (including the loss of bassist **Captain Sensible**), and have been so broke that they've had to sell personal possessions to keep going. Their luck finally changed in 1985 when they began releasing a string of hugely enjoyable trashy pop songs such as **Barry Ryan's** '60s epic "Eloise". Their current line up is:
● Drummer **Rat Scabies** (real name **Chris Miller**), a crusty character who thinks *Top Of The Pops* is "a farce" and "like a *Tupperware* party".
● Singer **Dave Vanian** (real name **David Lett**) who is half Latvian and has a cat called Demon.
● Guitarist **Roman Jugg** (real name Roman Jugg), a Welsh Yugoslavian who used to be in **Dr & The Medics**.
● Bass player **Bryn Merrick** (real name, erm, Bryn Merrick) who describes himself as "thick" and would like to own a Sherman tank.

DEAD OR ALIVE



▲ Pete Burns of Dead Or Alive.

● **DEAD OR ALIVE:** Chart success evaded this group for years, until 1984 brought them a few hi-energy hits, the best of which is the utterly wonderful "You Spin Me Round", described by **Pete Burns'** friend **Morrissey** as "a hallmark in British music which will never, ever date". Pete, the vampish and gyrating lead singer, is the heart and soul of the group as the rest of the members take very much of a back seat. Initially saddled with the "gender-bender" label, he is famed for his deadly Liverpool wit, sadly not so evident these days as he has almost given up being interviewed. "I have no wish to be acknowledged for anything I say," he once explained. "People set me up as something I'm not." Pete has recently moved to London with his wife **Lynn** and their two cats, and given up wearing his famous eye patch.

● **Background:** Three creepy-looking blokes wearing some "beautiful" flared breeks from 1970.

DEPECHE MODE



▲ The original Depeche Mode line-up, back in 1981, left to right: Martin Gore, Andy Fletcher, Vince Clarke and Dave Gahan.



▲ Depeche Mode now, looking a bit pervy as usual, left to right: Martin, Andy, Dave and Alan Wilder.

● **DEPECHE MODE:** One of the three main bands to emerge successfully from the so-called new romantic/futurist "movement" in 1981 (**Spandau Ballet** and **Duran Duran** were the other two), they were originally formed when **Vince Clarke** recruited **Dave Gahan**, **Andy Fletcher** and **Alan Wilder** in his hometown of Basildon. After their third single, "Just Can't Get Enough", Vince Clarke decided he hated being a pop star and left to form a variety of groups *(see **Erasure**, page 12)*. Instead of going down the dumper as expected Depeche Mode survived with Martin (secretly a songwriter since his teens) taking over as the main creative force. Though they've been pop stars for several years now they still don't understand one thing – why fans in America throw individual shoes onstage. "Imagine all those people hopping home . . ." Not only that, but . . .

● Dave Gahan married his longstanding girlfriend Jo in 1985 after he "just got up one morning and asked her to marry me and she said 'yeah, alright'."

● Martin Gore likes wearing women's clothes: "I find male dress in general very boring."

● Andy Fletcher is described by others as "the backbone of Depeche Mode" and is apparently the only one who never goes completely potty from time to time.

● Alan Wilder recently made a solo LP under the name **Recoil**.

● The group's second single, "New Life", was the first in an as yet unbroken stream of *sixteen* Top 30 hits!

DIRE STRAITS



PHONOGRAM

▲ Dire Straits, left to right: Guy Fletcher, Mark "horrible headband" Knopfler, Alan Clark, Terry Williams and John Illsley (guitarist Jack Sonni must be hiding in the bushes somewhere) . . .

● **DIRE STRAITS:** are **Mark Knopfler**, **Tony Williams**, **Guy Fletcher**, **John Illsley**, **Alan Clark** and **Jack Sonni** i.e. just about the most successful rock'n'roll band in the universe. They were invented by Glaswegian-born ex-journalist and teacher Mark Knopfler and bank manager's son John Illsley in 1976 when they were doing a spot of "jamming" in a council flat and John happened to comment on their utter skintness (viz: "We're in dire straits, man . . ."). Scraping together £120 to make their first demo-tape, they included on it a tune called "Sultans Of Swing" – which was actually played, much to their amazement, on Radio London. Suddenly the whole world knew their name. Six platinum LPs and one zwillion gigantic concert arenas later, Dire Straits still appeal to persons from every class i.e. people who own compact disc players *and* people who don't.

DR & THE MEDICS



RETNA

▲ Dr & The Medics, left to right: Richard, Vom, Steve Maguire (back), Wendi West, The Doctor and Colette Appleby (front).

● **DR & THE MEDICS:** Eccentric, extremely witty and very mischievous, Dr & The Medics make a 60s-inspired, psychedelic riot verging on heavy metal. Almost five years old, The Medics arrived from utter obscurity to number one stardom via their not-very-different-from-the-original cover version of **Norman Greenbaum's** hippie anthem "Spirit In The Sky". Labelled one-hit wonders, they stunned a nation with hit number two, "Burn". Famous for his ability to make entire audiences lie on dirty venue floors with their legs in the air, the 6' 5" Doctor (ex-scout master **Clive Jackson** who says "I *love* kids" and is a fully qualified St. John's Ambulance first aider) describes his band as "dreadful. And incredibly unfashionable. In *fact*, we're the band that's taken the sex appeal out of rock'n'roll – we look like a cross between Valerie Singleton and a slug."

DURAN DURAN



▲ Duran in their New Romantic phase at the time of "Planet Earth" in 1981.



▲ Looking somewhat smarter in 1982, around the time of "Rio".



DENIS O'REGAN

▲ The group at the time of "A View To A Kill", the last single all five made together, in May 1985.



DENIS O'REGAN

▲ The new three-piece Duran Duran, left to right: Simon, John, and Nick.

● **DURAN DURAN:** The seeds of the group were sown when **Nick Rhodes** and **John Taylor** formed an arty "ensemble" with two bass players, a clarinettist and a drum machine, but it wasn't until drummer **Roger Taylor** was recruited in 1978 that Duran Duran (their name taken from a character in the camp science fiction film *Barbarella*) were *really* formed. The line-up was completed soon afterwards by guitarist **Andy Taylor** (none of the Taylors are related, incidentally) and singer **Simon le Bon**, who was tipped off about the group by a barmaid. Their love of dressing up in smart clothes with big ruffled frills, lipstick and make-up and singing poppy tunes met with a blank response in their native Birmingham to begin with, but when **Spandau Ballet** started doing well in London as "new romantics", Duran Duran were seen as the Midlands equivalent (even though, remembers John, "we looked like poor old boys from 'oop north' who couldn't afford all the gear"). No-one seemed to mind, and in 1981 their first single, "Planet Earth", shot into the charts. Over the next few years they became possibly the most successful pop group in Britain, famous for their jet-setting lifestyle (and in particular their video for "Save A Prayer", shot on a Sri Lankan beach).

However, as time passed, there were rumours of increasing dissension within the group and at the beginning of 1985 it was announced that they would split to work on solo projects for a while. First came **The Power Station** – supposedly the realisation of John Taylor's original dream that Duran Duran's music would be a cross between **Chic's** poppy disco sound and **The Sex Pistols**' punk thrash. He recruited Andy, Roger as a part time member, Chic drummer **Tony Thompson** and singer **Robert Palmer**, who later walked out just two days before The Power Station's American tour was due to start and was swiftly replaced by ageing rocker **Michael des Barres**. In retaliation Simon and Nick, also with Roger's help, decided to do their own project – **Arcadia**. As Roger said, "The Power Station are straightforward powerful rock music whereas Arcadia have refined the more esoteric atmosphere of Duran Duran." Those weren't the only things to happen either. John also recorded a solo single, "I Do What I Do", for the film *9½ Weeks* and Simon announced that he was to take part in the Whitbread Round-The-World Race on his yacht *Drum*.

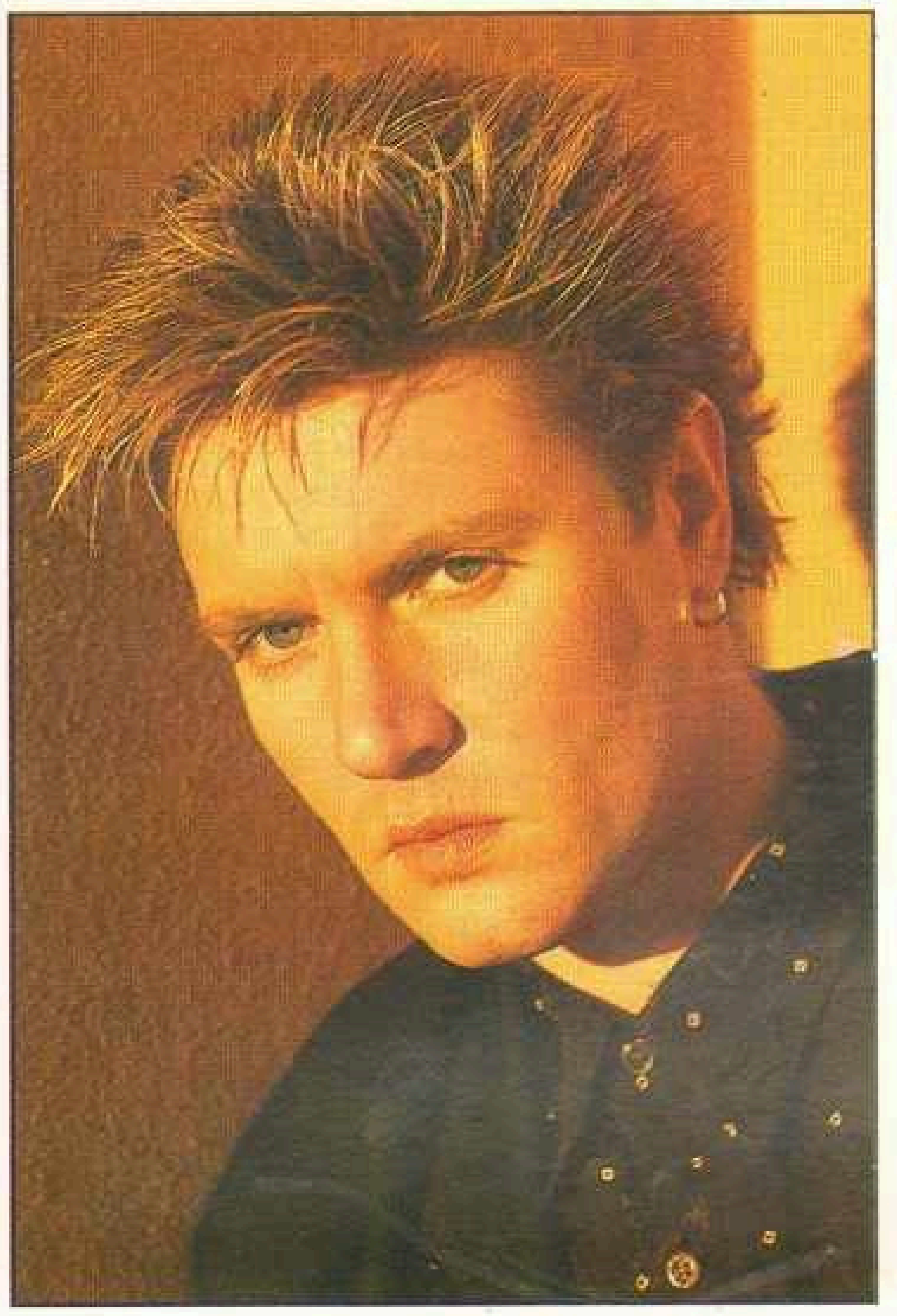
None of these "solo" projects did particularly well, though. Both Arcadia and The Power Station were less successful than Duran Duran had previously been and John's record flopped. As for Simon, his first proper boat race ended when *Drum* capsized and he had to be rescued from within the submerged hull by a Navy diver (though, to be fair, he did eventually sail on two "legs" of the Whitbread race, in which *Drum* finished third overall). The rest of the band weren't too chuffed about Simon's sailing escapade, though – for one thing they were worried about him, for another they thought it was irresponsible to leave them in the lurch for so long. As a result of this, Duran Duran produced only one record – "A View To A Kill" – and took part in one concert, *Live Aid*, in two years.

Then, at the end of 1986 – just when most people had given Duran up as finished – the group began to sort themselves out. Well, *three* of them did, anyway. Roger Taylor left suddenly at the end of 1985 amidst rumours of a nervous breakdown and hasn't been seen in public since. "He asked if he could stop and take a big break to assess things," explains Nick, "and we said 'OK, if that's what you want'." Andy meanwhile started spending more and more time in America, recording some songs with ex-Sex Pistol **Steve Jones** for the soundtrack to the film *American Anthem*, and forgetting to come back to help record the new Duran Duran LP, "Notorious". "He didn't turn up, he didn't call us, he didn't return our calls and he was sending us messages through his lawyers," John fumes, "and all *we* wanted to do was make a record and cut the crap." "I think," adds Nick, "that he'd have been quite happy just to see us split up." Instead, when he did turn up (five months late) to play on three songs, it was as "guest guitarist" – Duran Duran had sacked him to become a three piece. "The trouble is Andy is into rock'n'roll and we're into *art*'n'roll," tutted Nick.

According to the remaining three members of Duran Duran, having less personnel will just make them even *better*. "Remember when you were at school and learnt about the Spanish Armada," asks "salty" Simon, "and how the Armada failed against the English ships because the English ships were more manoeuverable? Well, that's how I feel about *this* thing."

● **Background: Frilly shirts ahoy! Pre-new romantic ruffles from, left to right, 1969, 1968 and 1965.**

* SIMON



DENIS O'REGAN

● **SIMON LE BON:** born 27/10/58, Simon was already a show-off by the tender age of five when he appeared in a *Persil* TV advertisement. A *Pepsi* ad and a flop West End stage version of *Tom Brown's Schooldays* followed before he went to art school, worked as a hospital porter and as a tree surgeon, went to live on a Kibbutz in Israel ("I learnt how to drive a tractor, lumberjacking, orange picking, looking after children – I loved it"), became known by his friends as Simon The Poser and then joined Duran Duran. He got married to **Yasmin Parvaneh**, a model, in December 1985 – he calls her "Pebbles" and claims she calls him "Captain Fantastic Wonderful Best Man On Earth" – and then apparently acquitted himself very honourably as one of the crew on *Drum* sailing round the world, getting covered with fish guts (yuk!) crossing the equator. He says he wouldn't do it again, though.

* JOHN



DENIS O'REGAN

● **JOHN TAYLOR:** born 20/6/60, **Nigel John Taylor** spent his teenage years as a weedy wimp with black hair, glasses and spots! Once he'd failed his 'A' levels he went to art school, but for his final year's presentation simply handed his tutors the first Duran Duran demo recording (including "Girls On Film"). They were *not* impressed. Originally he was a guitarist but, influenced by disco group Chic, he switched to bass. These days he likes to boast about how he's the only unmarried Duran member left – "we're young free and ready to move . . . and I'm single ha ha" – though he's always being linked with a succession of girlfriends, most strongly with Danish model **Renee Simonson.** Despite being the one who originally pulled the group apart by insisting on doing The Power Station album, he is now believed to be more devoted to the idea of Duran Duran than anybody.

* NICK *



DENIS O'REGAN

● **NICK RHODES:** born **Nicholas James Bates** on 8/6/62, he took his new name from a piano manufacturer's brand name. The artiest member of Duran Duran, he spends a lot of time hanging around with people like artist **Andy Warhol**, taking arty Polaroid photos of TV screens (some of which he put into a book called *Interference*) and, in idle moments, likes making up names for the new Duran Duran: "Duranarchy", "Durrallas" etc. He married his wife **Julie-Ann** at a famous all-pink wedding ceremony, and they have a daughter called **Tatjana.** "No, it's not a preposterous name at all!" Nick protests. "She's got a *beautiful* name . . ."

* ANDY *



MIKE PUTLAND

● **ANDY TAYLOR:** born 16/2/62 in the fishing village of Cullercoates near Newcastle, Andy had already played 595 concerts with other groups when he answered an ad in a paper and joined Duran Duran. He wore pink spotted leopard-skin trousers to the audition and has been the most rock'n'roll member ever since. He is co-owner of a restaurant, *Rio*, in Whitley Bay and is married to a former hairdresser **Tracey Wilson** – the two of them have a son, **Andy Jnr**, who wakes Andy up in the morning by pouring cold tea over him. In recent months Andy seems to have fallen in love with the American rock'n'roll lifestyle, living in California, playing with **Belinda Carlisle**, producing records for a group called **Love And Money** and finishing off his solo album. "The Power Station was halfway," he explains, "but now I've gone *totally* mad."

ROGER *



● **ROGER TAYLOR:** born 26/4/60 in Castle Bromwich, **Roger Andrew Taylor** started training as a drummer at the age of 10 when he used to bang knitting needles on pots. Always the quiet member of Duran Duran ("I'm fed up with everyone saying I'm the boring down-to-earth one"), he revealed to *Smash Hits* in August 1985 that "what I'd really love to do is take two years off and just go round the world and properly see places . . . I'll probably be too busy to do it for ages yet." Just weeks after he went into hiding and is now apparently living happily on his farm with his wife **Giovanna** and is said to have no intention of returning to pop music in the near future.

DISCOGRAPHY

(Fill in this year's releases as they come out.)

● SINGLES

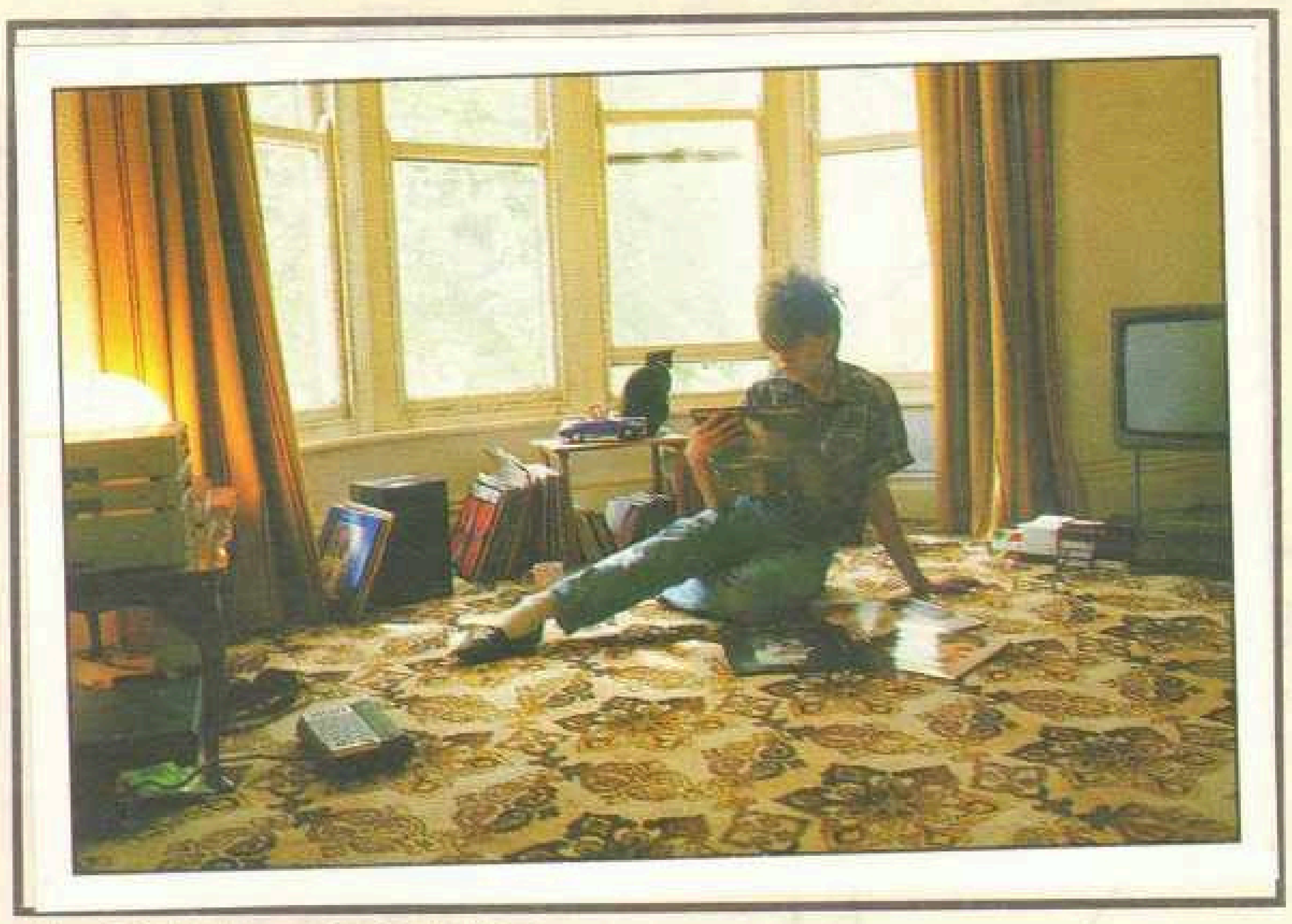
- Feb '81: **"Planet Earth"**
- April '81: **"Careless Memories"**
- July '81: **"Girls On Film"**
- Nov '81: **"My Own Way"**
- May '82: **"Hungry Like The Wolf"**
- Aug '82: **"Save A Prayer"**
- Nov '82: **"Rio"**
- March '83: **"Is There Something I Should Know?"**
- Oct '83: **"Union Of The Snake"**
- Jan '84: **"New Moon On Monday"**
- April '84: **"The Reflex"**
- Oct '84: **"The Wild Boys"**
- May '85: **"A View To A Kill"**
- Oct '86: **"Notorious"**
-
-
-
-
-
-

● ALBUMS

- June '81: **"Duran Duran"**
- May '82: **"Rio"**
- Nov '83: **"Seven And The Ragged Tiger"**
- Nov '84: **"Arena"**
- Nov '86: **"Notorious"**
-

E

*ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN



▲ Ian McCulloch lounging about at home.

● **ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN:** are **Pete de Freitas** (drums), **Les Pattinson** (bass), **Will Sergeant** (guitar) and singer **Ian "Mac" McCulloch**, an awkward and opinionated character. They all come from Liverpool, and evolved out of a set that includes characters like **Pete Wylie**, **Julian Cope**, **Pete Burns** and **Frankie Goes To Hollywood**. Although they've been quiet of late, the Bunnymen are still around, although not too keen on doing interviews or being photographed. Over the years there have been rumours of a split but, apart from Pete de Freitas sloping off for a time in early 1986, and being briefly replaced by **Blair Cunningham** (ex-**Haircut 100**), nothing dreadful has occurred. And, whatever happens, Mac reckons "Echo & The Bunnymen won't *ever* be forgotten."

ERASURE



PAUL RIDER

▲ Erasure, left to right: Andy Bell and Vince Clarke.

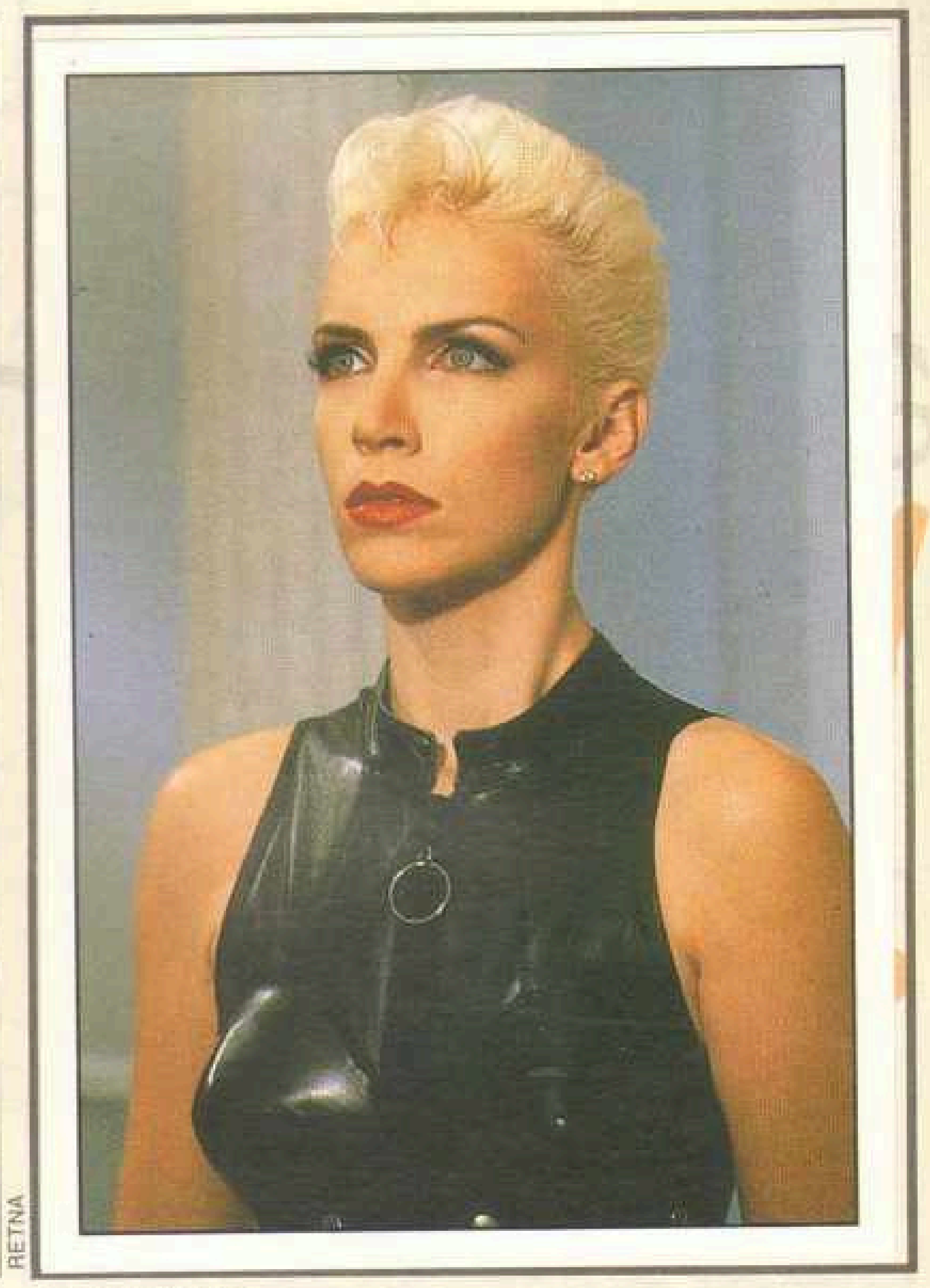
● **ERASURE:** **Vince Clarke** (all instruments) previously started **Depeche Mode**, but got fed up with pop stardom and squabbling and left after their second hit. He then started **Yazoo** but fell out with **Alison Moyet**, formed **The Assembly** (with guest singers like **Feargal Sharkey**) but gave up when he couldn't find eager singers, and finally decided to audition singers for a new duo. Along came **Andy Bell** from Peterborough, a gay extrovert who embarrasses Vince by declaring his love for him and who gets *very* upset when he's told he sounds like Alison Moyet for the squillionth time. After a lean early period of flop singles during which Vince drove Andy bonkers by endlessly crunching'n'swishing *Tunes* cough "sweets" in his mouth as they toured around in a van, they at last found success with "Sometimes".

* EURYTHMICS *



RETNA

▲ Dave Stewart.



RETNA

▲ Annie Lennox.

● **EURYTHMICS:** Hippie twangster **Dave Stewart** met ex-classical music student **Annie Lennox** in 1976, in a Hampstead health food restaurant where she was working as a waitress. They fell in love and lived together for four years, setting up a pop group called **The Tourists**, who had a hit with **Dusty Springfield's** oldie "I Only Want To Be With You". In 1980 both their relationship and The Tourists fell apart, and they formed the Eurythmics instead, remaining "incredibly close". Problems with her voice, a short-lived marriage to Hari Krishna devotee **Rahda Raman** and reputed nervous problems led Annie to spend most of 1985 and early 1986 in hibernation. Dave filled in the gap by working with and producing people as diverse as **Feargal Sharkey**, **Daryl Hall**, **Bob Geldof** and ancient legend **Bob Dylan** – "he's a funny chap," says Dave. Annie says she never doubted Dave would return to the group once she was better: "You see, I know that for him Eurythmics is his main interest, absolutely – there's no question about that."

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL



◄ "EBTG", left to right: Ben Watt and Tracey Thorn.

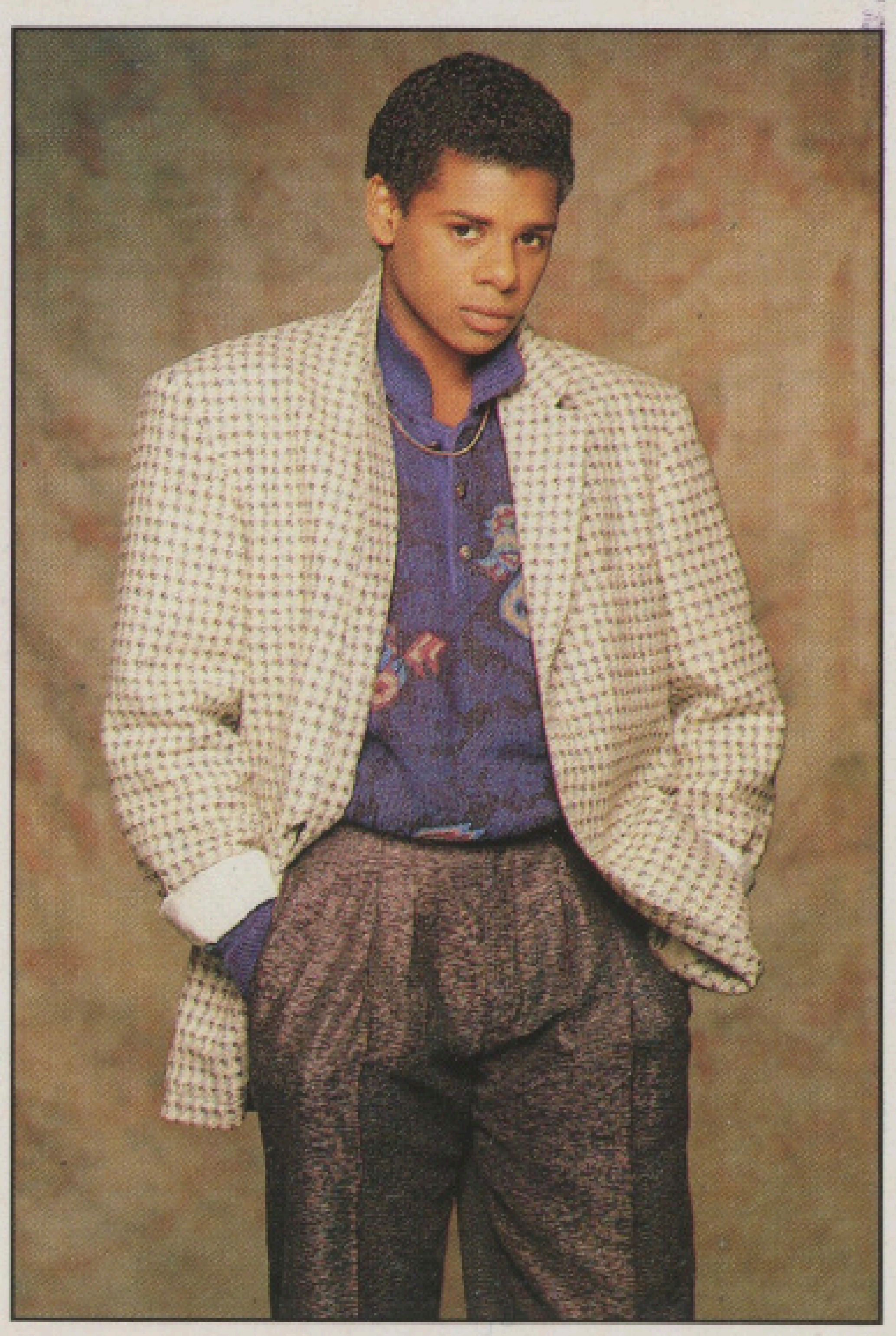
● **EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL:** **Tracey Thorn** and **Ben Watt** met at Hull University – she was studying English, he drama. Both were already recording for the same small record company – Ben solo and Tracey both solo and as one-third of ramshackle, jangly girl group **The Marine Girls**. The couple decided to record a "one-off" version of an old **Cole Porter** song, "Night And Day", together, taking their name from a famous Hull second-hand shop. Later they teamed up permanently and also became girlfriend and boyfriend. They have recorded three distinctly different LPs – the first full of jazzy bossa nova songs, the second more straightforward guitar pop and the third huge orchestrated ballads. They're now rather less earnest and dour-faced than they used to be, though they both espouse feminism and socialism given the opportunity.

● **Background: It's the sniziest dad! (Whatever that means.) The ultimate in high technology from 1962.**

FIVE STAR

● **FIVE STAR:Buster Pearson** always dreamed that his five children – **Stedman, Doris, Deniece, Lorraine** and **Delroy** – would form a group in the spirit of **The Jacksons**. He wanted them to achieve all the things he'd missed as a backing musician for old soul stars like **Wilson Pickett**, but insists that he never suggested the idea – just waited patiently for them to come to him. When they did, he taught them the importance of mastering every possible skill they might need – singing, playing instruments, dancing, presenting themselves in the right way in public and so on – and their mother **Dolores** agreed to look after the accounts. In 1983 they released the first of their soft pop/soul singles. It flopped, as did the follow-up, but "All Fall Down" gave them their first hit and, after a couple more hiccups, they were unstoppable. Hardly surprising really, as they have all been incredibly devoted to their careers, spending most of their time working. They spend their rare moments of relaxation childishly larking about together, quite happily revealing that apart from the family "we don't really have any friends" and explaining that there'll be plenty of time for boyfriends, girlfriends and suchlike later on. They're far from satisfied with their level of success – five top twenty hits in Britain in 1986, not to mention a number one album, "Silk and Steel" – and say that they want to be internationally the most successful band ever. Though even *then* they won't let the family fall apart. As Deniece says, "I wouldn't want to let them down – I think we'll be together for about a hundred years."

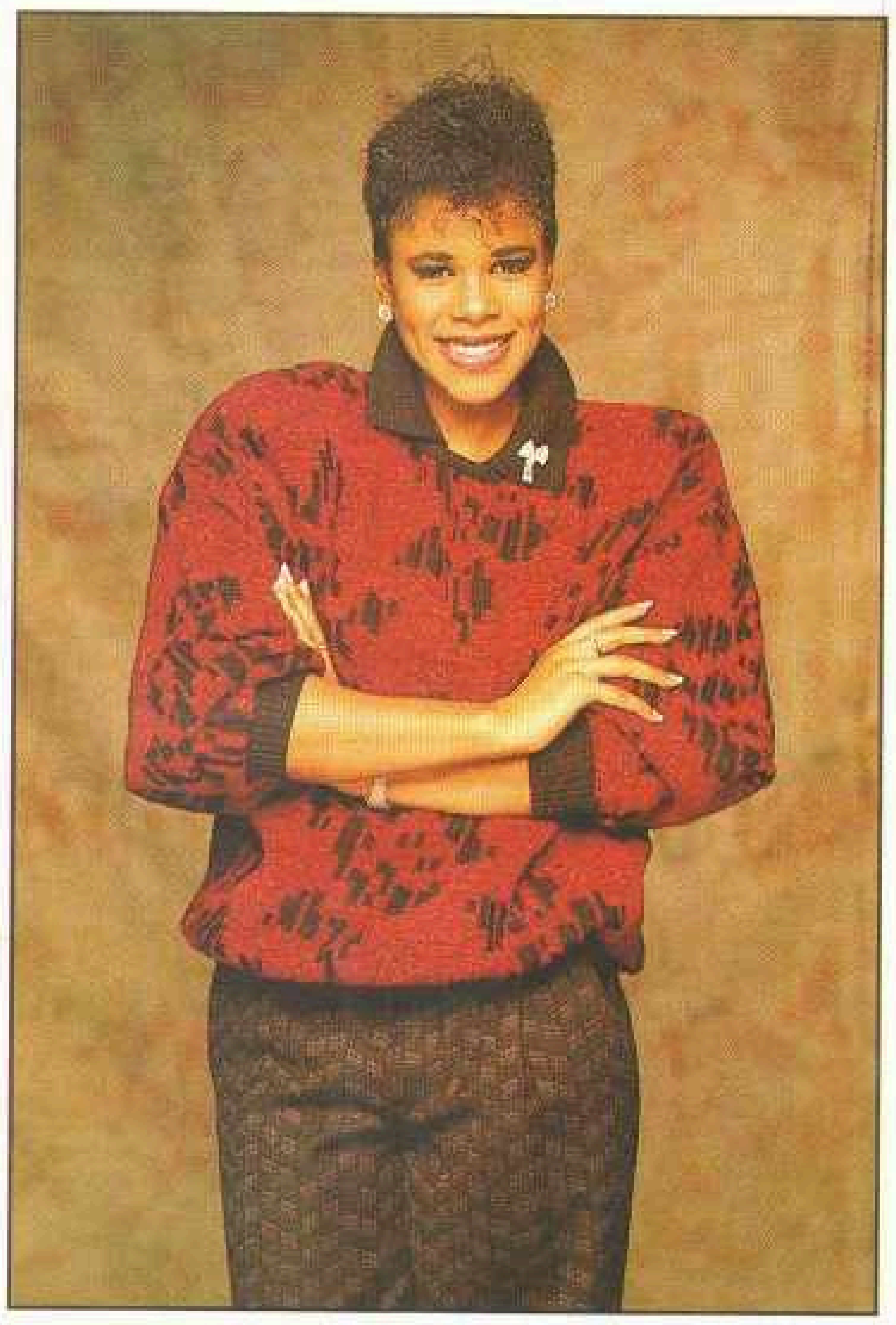
* DELROY *



RCA

● **DELROY:** born 11/4/70, Delroy, who has something of an obsession with fish, claims he was a fish in some previous life and – in this life – was jolly good at football at school. **Likes:** carp-fishing with his mate Tristan, his old model cars, and a signed leather baseball Doris bought him in America. **Dislikes**: being told to do the dishes by mum ("but I always do it in the end"), his gardening trousers, and not catching carp. Like the others says he's never been in love – "there have been people I've taken a fancy to, but that's as far as I've gone, *looking* at people."

LORRAINE



RCA

● **LORRAINE:** born 10/8/67, her middle name is **Samantha Jean. Likes**: houses with two staircases, TV ("I'm a telly addict"), her scrapbook containing every single press cutting Five Star have ever had and writing fiction stories. **Dislikes**: early photos of Five Star wearing jeans ("yeurrghhhh!") and never seeing any of her old schoolfriends: "They used to phone but our telephone number's changed." Says she wants to become a comedy actress: "I've tried acting seriously in the mirror and it just doesn't look that good on me."

DENIECE



RCA

● **DENIECE:** born 13/6/68, her middle name is **Lisa Maria**, after **Elvis Presley**'s daughter. **Likes: Morten Harket**'s eyes ("they're *very* special"), dogs, men who are "charming, old-fashioned, very thoughtful and very caring" and writing songs. **Dislikes:** getting punished by mum when younger for sliding down the stairs under a quilt and putting lots of chairs together and sleeping on them and eating raw rice and tomato ketchup (*yeuuccchhhh*) and so on. Wants to be a "very very *very* successful musician and a very very very very *very* successful all-round entertainer."

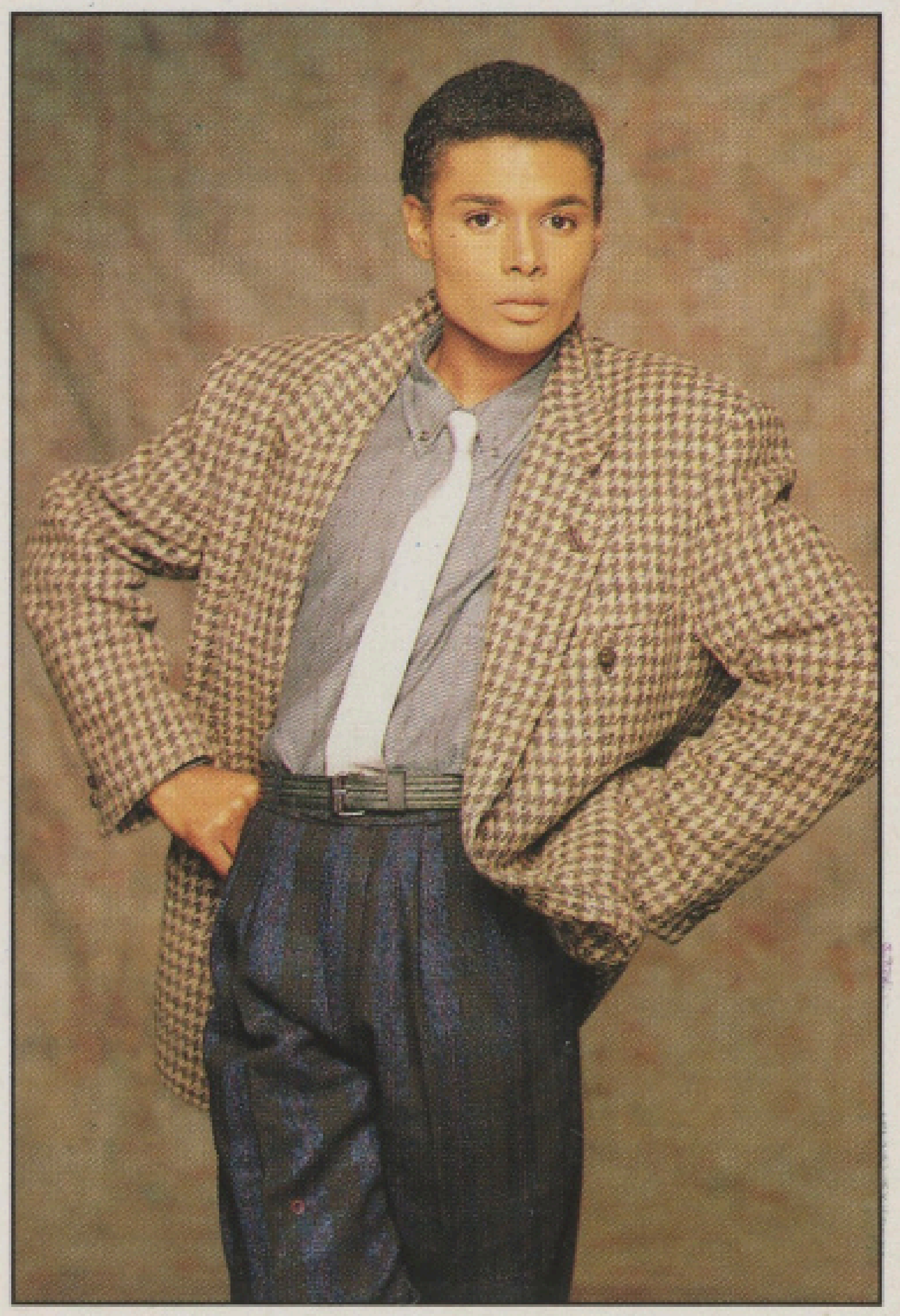
* DORIS *



RCA

● **DORIS:** born 8/6/66, **Doris May Stedman** claims to have always been "brilliant, modest, talented, witty, charming". At Rush Green junior school she excelled in the netball team and not too much else: "They used to call me a skiver but teachers are boring anyway." **Likes: Michael Jackson**, cats, embarrassing people, baking cakes (especially Devil's Food Cake – spook!) and making polystyrene models of Five Star's video sets. **Dislikes:** crying in front of people, the family cat John eating their goldfish, and failing – "not that I've found anything I can't do yet . . ."

STEDMAN

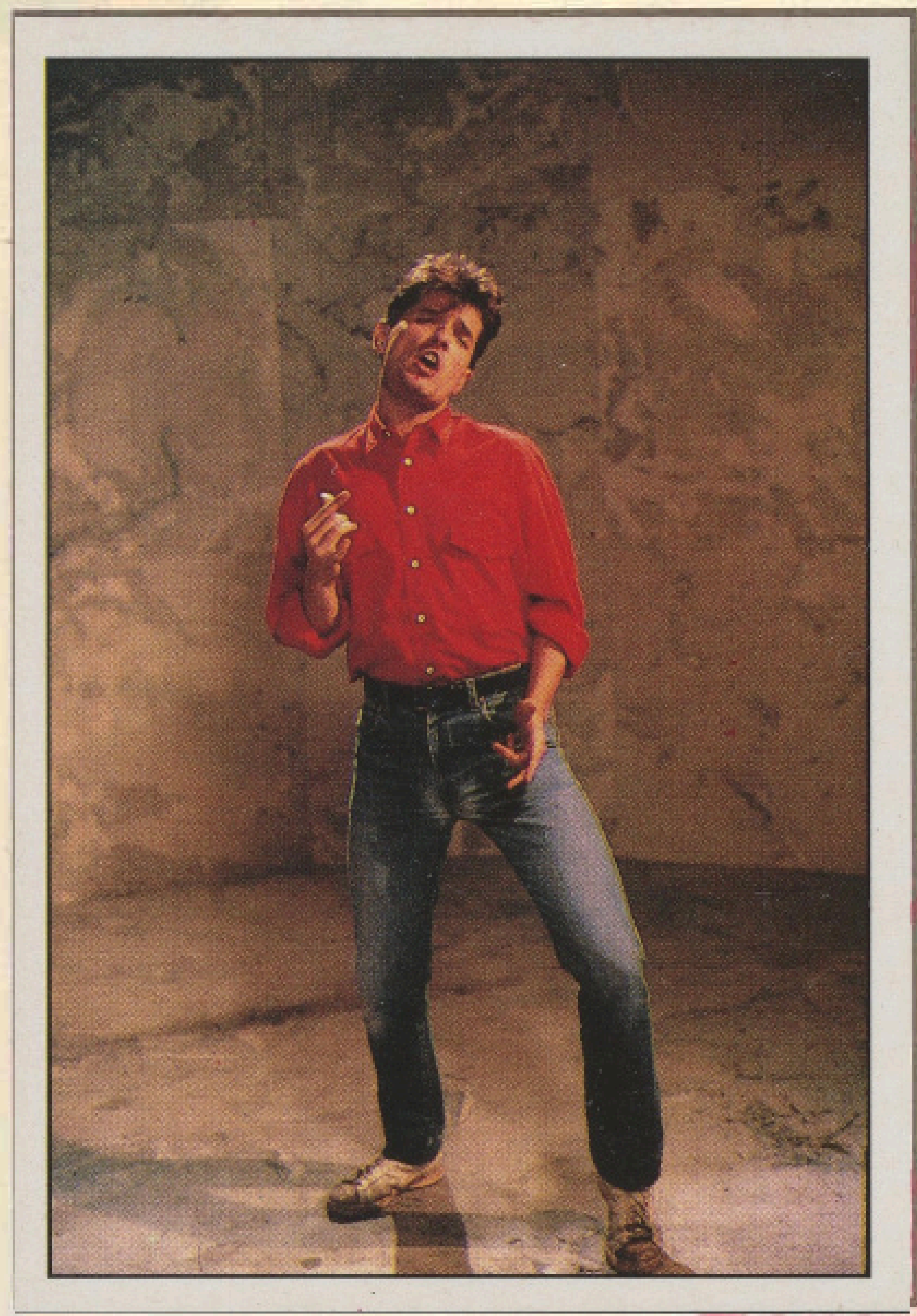


RCA

● **STEDMAN:** born 29/6/64, Stedman was named after his father though he is nicknamed "Sted". At school he studied dance and karate. **Likes:** Italian handcarved furniture from the 1600s ("they're still making it," he once rather oddly said), designing all of Five Star's costumes and cuddly toys. **Dislikes:** Being ganged up on by the others and sad films. Thinks he might have been **Queen Nefertiti** (ancient Egyptian vixtress) in a previous life and wants eventually to progress onto film-making, photography, working in the fashion trade and running a dance school.

F

FALCO



FALCO: born 19/2/57, Falco is really a mad Austrian called **Johann Hoekel**. In 1982, after years of messing about, he released a single called "Der Kommissar" which did well nearly everywhere except in Britain. After that he hit the doldrums and his career was considered over in Austria in early 1985 after he'd refused to appear on their Band Aid record. Unperturbed, he bounced back with the huge international hit "Rock Me Amadeus", a bizarre half-German, half-English rap tribute to the classical composer **Mozart** whom Falco insisted was a mate and regular drinking partner of his. When not telling giant fibs, he admits to living with his girlfriend and baby daughter **Katharina Bianca** in his Vienna flat which is full of art deco thingies and has Arabian carpets on the walls. He also admits, not without reason, that he is "a little weird". And who would dispute him?

* THE FALL *



PAUL RIDER

THE FALL: Led by the ungainly **Mark E. Smith,** The Fall formed as a Manchester punk group in the late '70s, releasing scores of strange songs like "Bingo Masters Break Out" and "How I Wrote Elastic Man". Mark became famous for barking out streams of odd lyrics which led critics to hail him as a "genius"; however The Fall have always remained something of an "acquired" taste. These days their brash image has been toned down a bit: they've had their songs choreographed by trendy ballet dancer **Michael Clark**, and Mark has married a posh Californian called **Brix** who now plays guitar for The Fall as well as running her own group, **The Adult Net**. "The reason The Fall started," says Mark, "was to put a bit of brains back into music."

◄ **Brix (left) and Mark E. Smith of The Fall.**

* FELT *



CREATION

FELT: Utterly superb Birmingham group suffering unjustly from "cultdom" (i.e. not being very famous). Melancholic, chinkling and poetic, Felt are four people – **Martin Duffy, Maurice Deebank, Gary Ainge** and their charismatic and definitely eccentric lead singer **Lawrence**. Created in 1980, Felt have made 6 LPs (one a very strange instrumental thing – "I just did it for myself," explains Lawrence) and ponder their obscurity as "very frustrating. I think we're a band for future generations." Lawrence describes himself as "a dabbler in life except I don't dabble properly because I can't do *anything* properly", a bit of a "sad person – I don't know why", a "hermit" and "definitely not normal". He's not a liar.

◄ **Lawrence of Felt.**

FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS

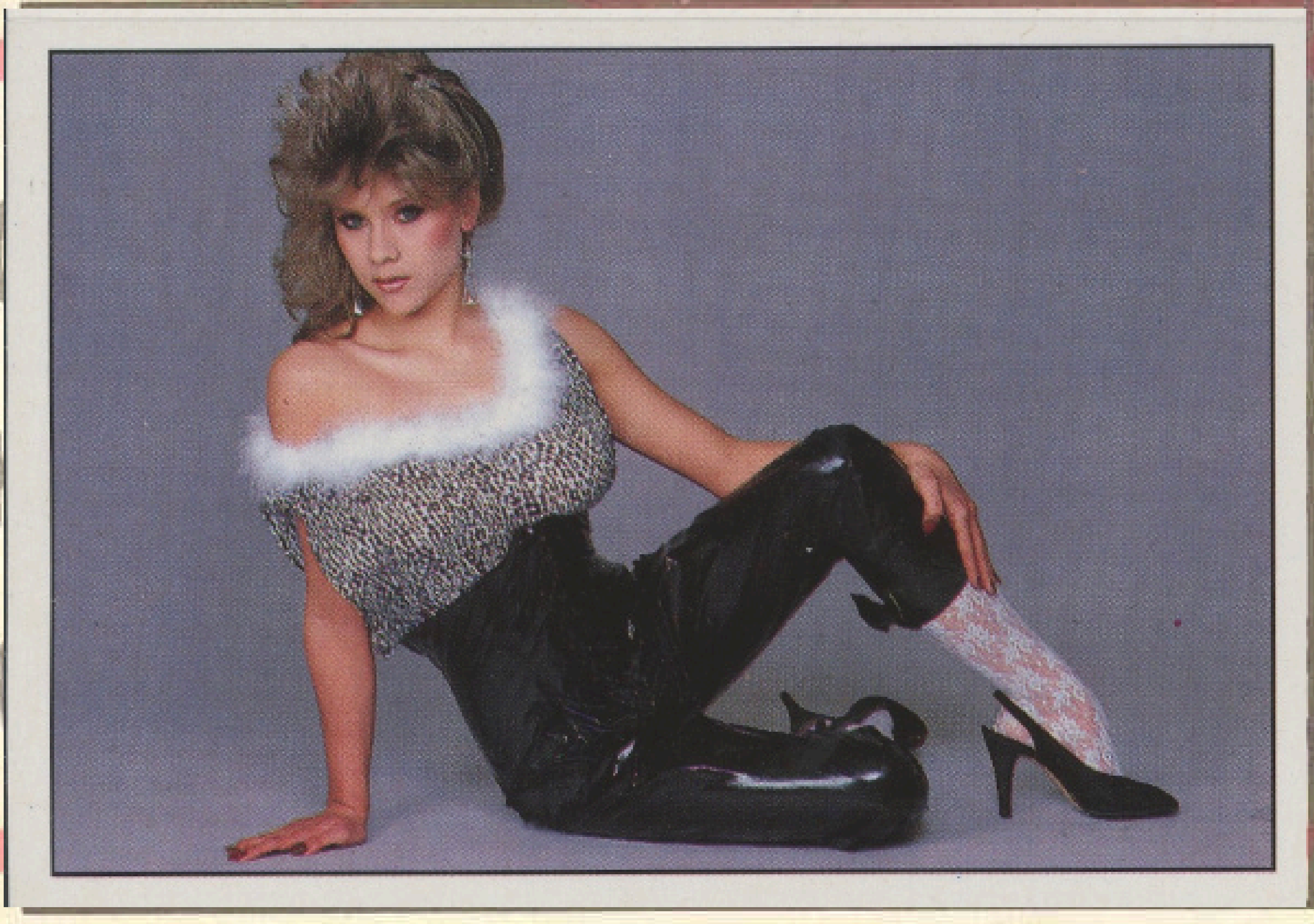


LONDON

FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS: came together when **The Beat** split and **David Steele** (bass) and **Andy Cox** (guitar) struck out on their own. They needed a singer and eventually found him in the shape of **Roland Gift** – a fellow inhabitant of Birmingham who'd migrated to London to seek his fortune. Roland had something of an effect on the others, getting them to go swimming and eat muesli in the mornings. He also helped them into the charts with the haunting "Johnny Come Home" in 1985, which was followed by "Blue" and a less acclaimed cover version of **Elvis Presley**'s classic weepster, "Suspicious Minds". They've been quiet lately but it's a confident silence. "We're in an enviable position," says Andy. "We're well-respected and we do what we want to do. I'd hate to be in one of those bands who hate each others' guts."

◄ **Fine Young Cannibals, left to right: David Steele, Roland Gift and Andy Cox.**

SAMANTHA * FOX *



SAMANTHA FOX: 20 year old Samantha rose to fame thanks to her "generously" proportioned body, which she regularly displayed (unclothed) on page three of the *Sun* "news"paper. After several years spent in her extremely lucrative modelling career Samantha took up singing and, contrary to public expectation, had a massive hit with her first single, "Touch Me (I Want Your Body)", a "raunchy" disco-romp. Another single, "Do Ya Do Ya (Wanna Please Me)" followed in very much the same vein. In a blaze of publicity, she abandoned modelling (although the *Sun* regularly print her old poses) to concentrate on her singing career, and may shortly diversify into "acting". She is a cockney and prides herself on, amongst other things, her girl-next-door image: "I'm a normal girl who lives at home with her parents. That's that."

◄ **Samantha Fox on her first-ever fashion "shoot" at the age of 17.**

● **Background: Wearing a three-button so-called "vest" was the sure way to be "a smash at every freak-out", according to this 1969 ad.**

FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD



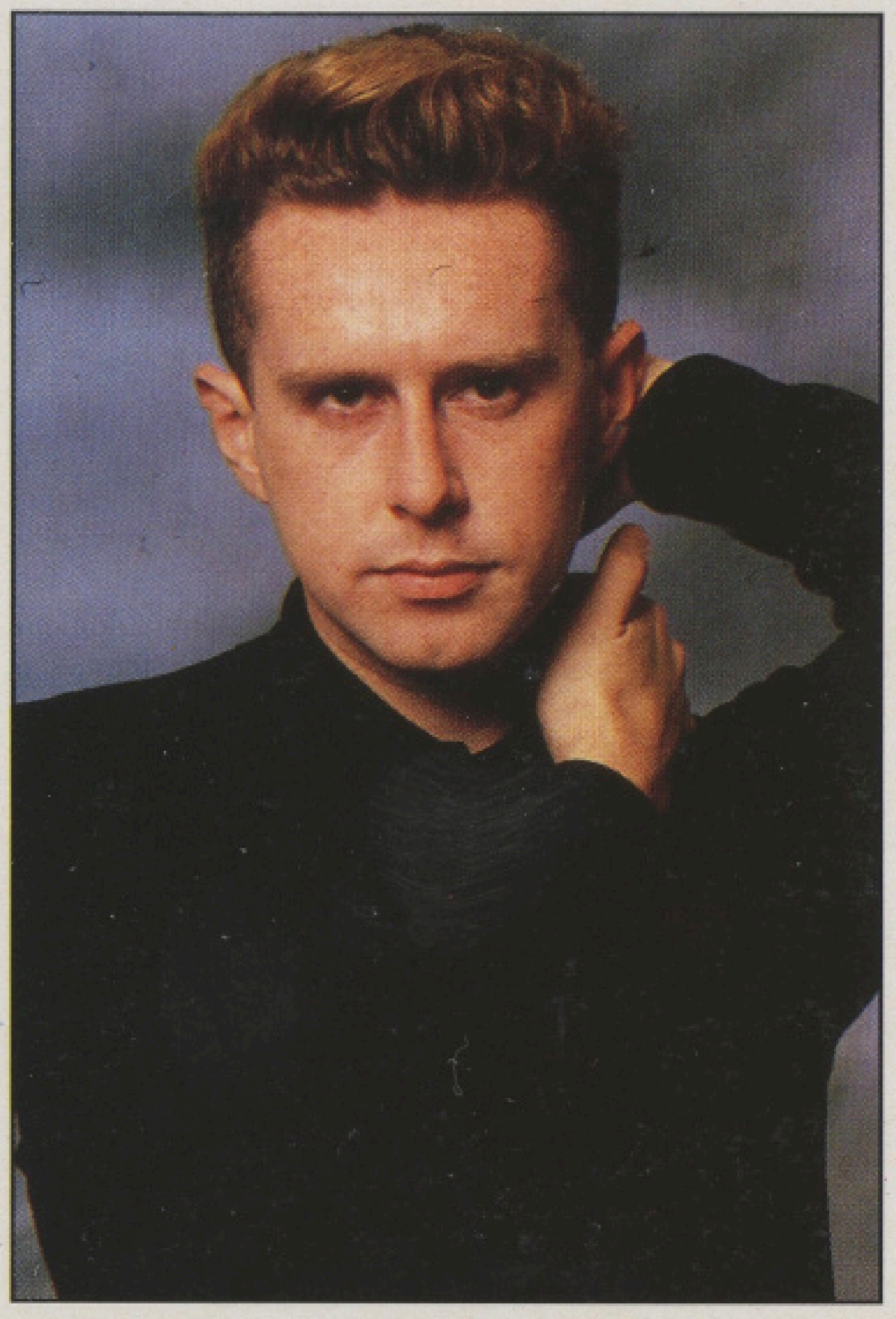
ZTT

▲ Frankie, left to right: Mark, Nash, Ped, Holly and Paul.

● **FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD:** The myth has it that **Holly Johnson** met **Peter "Ped" Gill** (an ex-wood machinist), **Mark O'Toole** (an apprentice joiner) and his brother **Ged** in a Liverpool record shop and formed a group (taking their name from a newspaper headline about **Frank Sinatra**). Mark's cousin **Brian "Nasher" Nash**, joined later and **Paul Rutherford** apparently just jumped on stage and joined in during their first concert. Songs like "Relax" and "Two Tribes" were rejected by everybody until producer **Trevor Horn** saw them perform a risqué "Relax" on *The Tube* and took them on (by which time Ged had left). After being smashed on air by **Mike Read** and banned by the BBC for sexual obscenity "Relax" shot to number one, followed by "Two Tribes" and "The Power Of Love". The band were still a bit miffed though that everybody said their success was due to Trevor Horn (session musicians played a lot if not most on the early records) and their record company ZTT's marketing (different 12" versions, "Relax" t-shirts and so on). So, after an album, "Welcome To The Pleasure Dome", a single of the same name (which this time reached number two) and a tour they disappeared for 18 months to work on an LP that was totally their own, the much rougher-sounding "Liverpool". So far, though, it has proved far less popular than its predecessors.

"Strange" but true ...

- Mark O'Toole likes model cars and recently got engaged to his American girlfriend **Lorna**: "We went to *Pizzaland* to celebrate."
- Brian Nash recently married nurse **Claire Bryce** and lives with her and two cats: "the cats are the hardest."
- Ped Gill can't dance ("it usually ends up with me flat on me face"), likes motor racing and – gasp! – *admires* **Andrew Ridgeley**: "If I gave him a race he'd probably thrash me."
- Holly Johnson has got a nice hand-painted tea-set with cornflowers and poppies on it and is a dab hand at making Yorkshire pud in his *Kenwood Chef*: "They rise really well."
- Paul Rutherford once made a dress for Holly and has a Japanese Mickey Mouse dressed as a magician that will lift up a handkerchief to reveal a piece of melon-flavoured gum.



ZTT

● **HOLLY JOHNSON:** born **William Johnson** on 19/2/60, he got the nickname Holly from a line about a transvestite in **Lou Reed**'s "Walk On The Wild Side". He was previously bass player in trendy Liverpool art-punk band **Big In Japan** after which he made two solo singles before Frankie Goes To Hollywood started. He's by far the artist member of the band ("they laugh at me") and also does oil painting and writes poems. He denies that this is just a pop star sideline like **Nick Rhodes**' polaroids: "I don't think *anything* could be like Nick Rhodes' polaroids," he sneers.

G

PETER GABRIEL

● **PETER GABRIEL:** While at school, Peter Gabriel formed **Genesis** (*see page 16*) and led them to success with his preposterous theatrics, ridiculous stage costumes and bizarre lyrics. In 1975 he abandoned Genesis and pop music "for good", but soon started recording again and released a series of highly personal solo LPs – the first four simply called "Peter Gabriel". He's now become much more "commercial", resulting in hit singles such as "Sledgehammer" (much helped by a brilliant video) and his duet with **Kate Bush**, "Don't Give Up". A shy eccentric, he lives near Bath with his wife **Jill** and his two children, and dreams of setting up an alternative "theme park" combining elements of "Disneyland, a holiday camp, an art gallery, a university and a museum."

▼ A scene from Peter Gabriel's brilliant "Sledgehammer" vid.



ANDY CATLIN

BOB GELDOF

● **BOB GELDOF:** An ex-music journalist, Bob led **The Boomtown Rats** to success in the late '70s as the poppiest band in the punk rock movement. As a pop star he soon got a reputation for his general arrogance and for his refusal to say, as most punk stars did, that he wanted to "change the world", declaring instead that he wanted to "get rich, get famous and get laid". But after a lot of hits including two number ones – "Rat Trap" and "I Don't Like Mondays" – the "Rats" plunged headlong down pop's ever-beckoning dumper. Then, in autumn 1984, he was moved to tears by a report about the Ethiopian famine on the *9 O'Clock News*, arranged the "Do They Know It's Christmas" record with friend and co-writer **Midge Ure**, and spent the next two years organising endless spin-offs – *Live Aid, Sport Aid* etc – raising over £100 million. He has also written a best-selling autobiography – *Is That It?* – appeared in films (**Pink Floyd**'s absolutely appalling pomp-epic *The Wall*, and the little-known *Number One*) and recently embarked upon a solo career. He's married to *Tube* presenter **Paula Yates** and they have a daughter, **Fifi Trixabelle**.



PAUL RIDER

HE HAS SAID:

- "I am the 34th most stylish person in Britain."
- "Fund-raising is actually a very boring thing to be doing."
- "I am probably the least cool person on the planet."
- "People will be expecting this great integrity and gravitas in what I do and it's a problem. What if I just want to sing 'yummy yummy yummy I've got love in my tummy'?"
- "If something happened like the African famine now I would drop everything and do it again – I know that *absolutely*."

GENESIS



▲ Genesis, left to right: Phil Collins, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks.

● **GENESIS:** Formed in 1968 at posh public school Charterhouse, Genesis were originally **Tony Banks, Steve Hackett, Mike Rutherford** and a complete weirdo called **Peter Gabriel** who was the main singer/songwriter (*see page 15*). Drummer **Phil Collins** joined a couple of years later, and the group soon became one of the most successful "progressive rock" troupes ever, with LPs like "The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway". Peter walked out in 1975, Steve left in 1976, Phil started writing and singing the songs and the group have become ever more successful, especially with last year's innovative *Spitting Image* video for "Land Of Confusion". "The thing is," they say, "there isn't really enough competition in this area of music – songs with perhaps just a *little* bit more thought in."

GO WEST



IDOLS

▲ Go West, left to right: Peter Cox and Richard Drummie.

● **GO WEST:** are **Peter Cox** (born 17/11/55) and **Richard Drummie** (born 20/3/59). They both come from the swanky London suburb of Twickenham and, separately, spent many years playing in local pubs and halls until they met up and formed Go West seven years ago. Then it was yet more of the same until they had their first hit single, "We Close Our Eyes", in 1985. Once-podgy Peter is famous for displaying his physique in skimpy vests, an image they're now trying to cast off by wearing giant coats instead – "We are *extremely* unfashionable," they boast. They try not to let anyone know too much about them individually – "We tend to be seen as a unit, as Siamese twins" – but admit: "We're both grumpy – and neither of us is intellectual."

JAKI GRAHAM

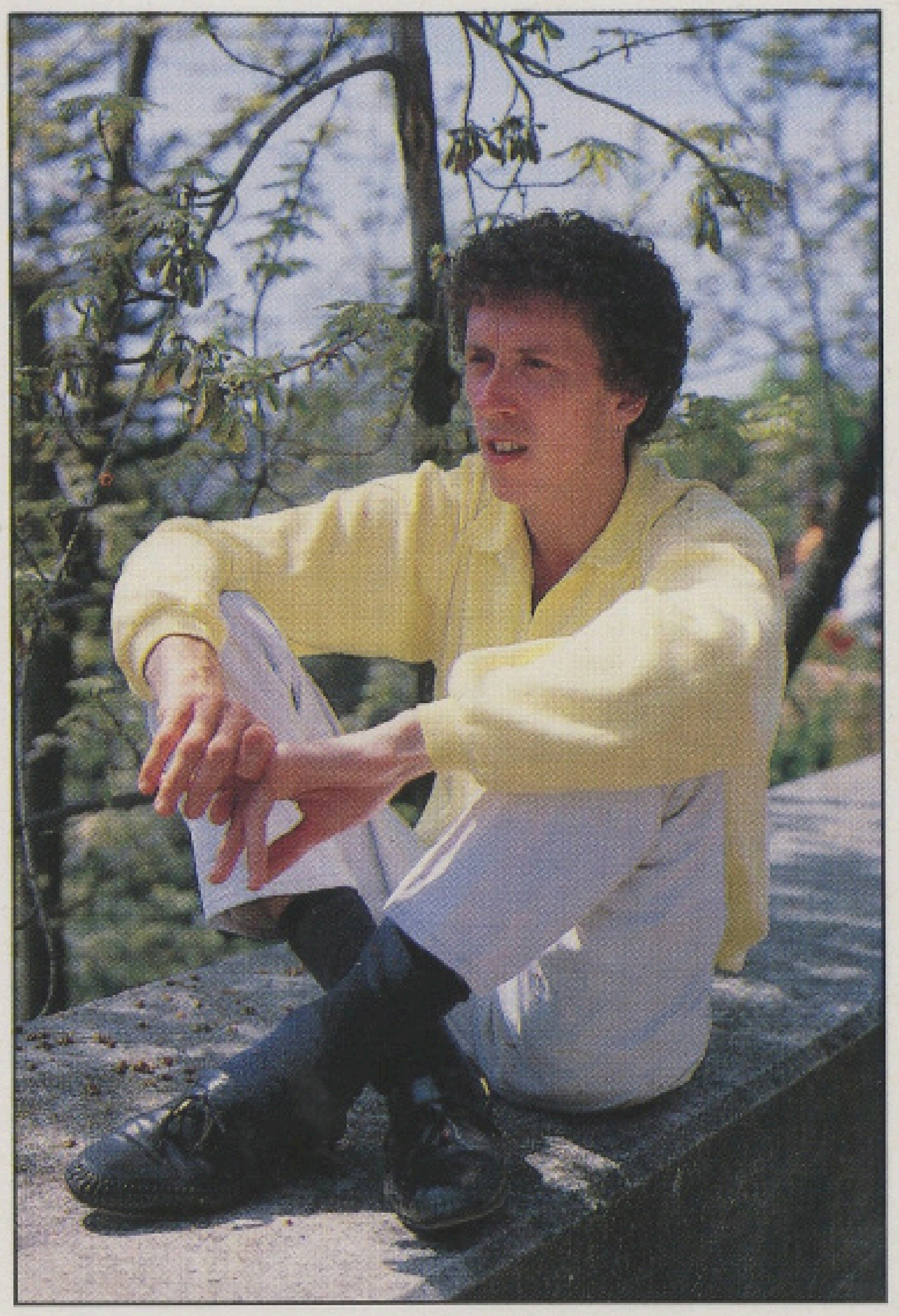


● **JAKI GRAHAM:** Born 15/9/56 in Birmingham, Jaki is a breezy character who was discovered crooning round the night-club scene (man) by the manager of **David Grant** (ex-**Lynx** singer and famous soul person). Thus Jaki and David were introduced and a hit single was invented – the weepaway duet "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love". Now famous in her own right with such tunes as "Set Me Free" and "Step Right Up", Jaki became renowned for wearing a pervy rubber outfit on *Top Of The Pops*, which she bought from the same shop **Sigue Sigue Sputnik** use. "It felt real weird – imagine wearing a rubber glove all over your body – yeuuch!" Normally though, she doesn't see herself as a poutlicious "sex bomb", and devotes much of her time to her husband **Tony** (childhood sweetheart whom she married at 19) and her daughter **Natalie**. "I'm just a mum who sings sometimes, that's all," she says self-effacingly.

● Background: San Francisco "hippy" jewellery (i.e. with loads of janglesome bells on) from 1967.

H

PAUL HARDCASTLE



● **PAUL HARDCASTLE:**
● He was born in London on 10/12/58, and used to work in a hi-fi shop.
● He's such an electronics "whiz" that he's built his own recording studio at home.
● Amongst many others, he's produced soul/funk hits for **Change** and **Third World**.
● He's probably the only person in the entire universe to have reached Number 41 in the charts three times in a row.
● His biggest hit, "19" (based on the Vietnam war), reached number one in 13 countries and sold 3½ million copies worldwide in 1985.
● His next record, "Just For Money", featured the voices of v. famous actors **Lord Lawrence Olivier** and **Bob Hoskyns**.
● He wrote the current *Top Of The Pops* theme 'tune".
● He was once interviewed for *Smash Hits* by **Pet Shop Boy Neil Tennant.**
● His wife is an ex-hairdresser called **Dolores**.
● He's a bit of a soul-boy.

DEBBIE HARRY


PICTORIAL PRESS

● **DEBBIE HARRY:** After years of being in tacky bands and doing waitressing jobs, Debbie Harry became a massive superstar in the late '70s as singer with new-wave group **Blondie**. Sadly, at the beginning of the '80s Blondie's crafty mixture of '60s pop and '80s disco stopped selling and they careered down the dumper. Debbie then released a disastrous solo LP "Koo Koo", and, even more disastrously, **Chris Stein** (her boyfriend and Blondie's guitarist and main songwriter) contracted an unpleasant rare disease, peruphigus, which took until last year to clear up. She celebrated his recovery by relaunching her career with the brilliant "French Kissin' In the USA", has just made a film called *Forever Lulu* and quite rightly says of her "comeback", "It's about time, isn't it?"

THE HOUSEMARTINS

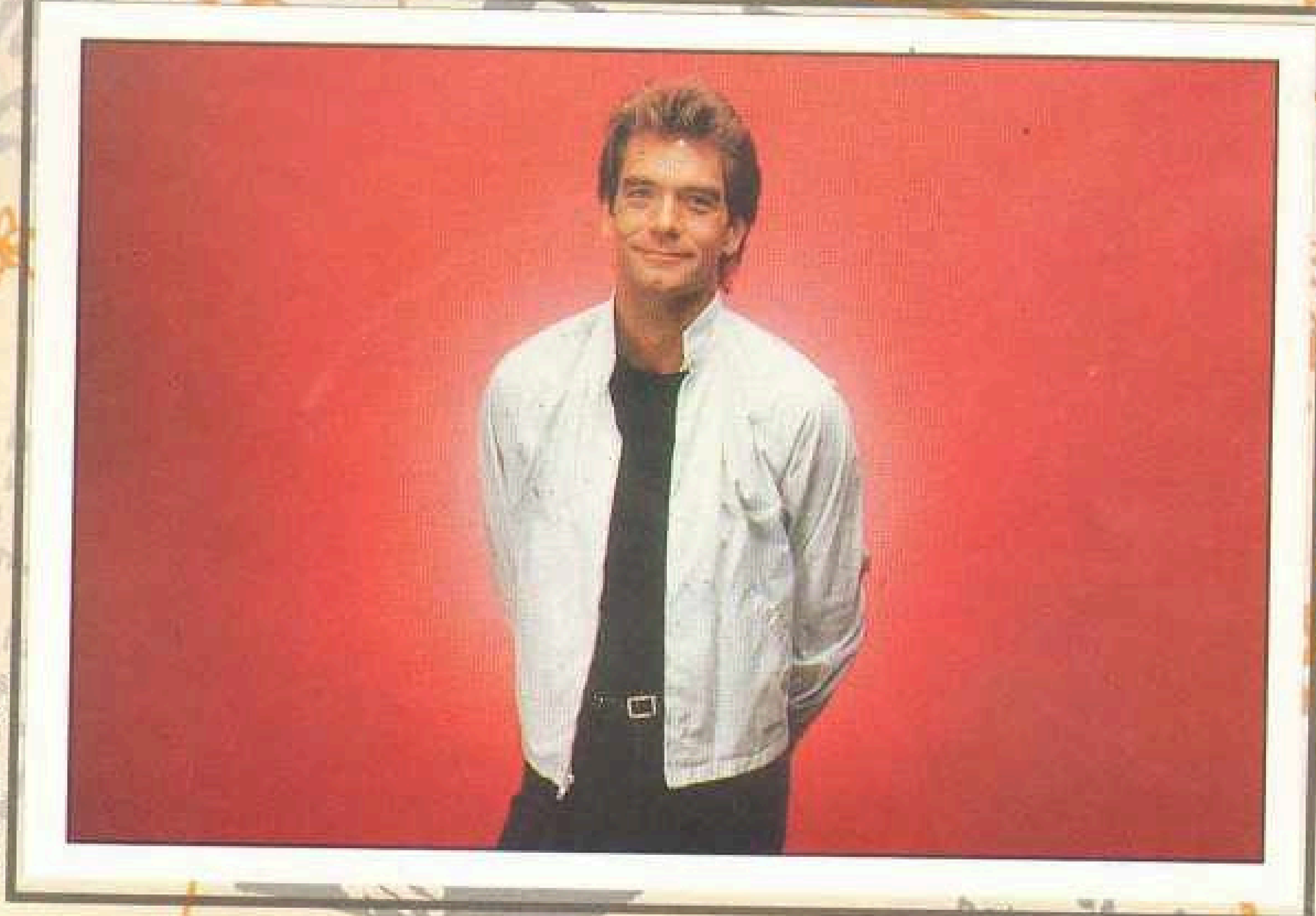

RETNA

▲ The Housemartins, left to right: Paul, Stan, Norm and Hugh.

● **THE HOUSEMARTINS:** are **Paul Heaton** (vocalist, ex-book ledger from Sheffield), **Stan Cullimore** (guitarist, ex-university graduate from Birmingham), **Norman Cook** (real name **Quentin** (!), ex-DJ from Brighton) and **Hugh Whittaker** (drummer, ex-unemployed person from Hull). For some inexplicable reason they now all live in Hull, where Paul was "just travelling around and happened to stop off for a while." Being skint he placed an advertisement in his window which was espied by Stan who lived just down the road. For a year Paul and Stan busked furiously "doing support slots in people's kitchens" until frustration drove them to snaffle two members from another band called **The Gargoyles** (i.e. Norman and Hugh) and – *voila!* – The Housemartins were here. Travelling round the country with the aid of *Mars Bar* Free Travel Vouchers ("we ate a *lot* of *Mars Bars*"), they gained an ecstatic live following, and their first two singles were instant independent successes. The third, "Happy Hour", jigged 'n' jaunted its way to number three in the national charts – aided, no doubt, by its thoroughly sparkling video – and their debut LP "London 0: Hull 4", followed, as did more success with the magical "Think For A Minute" and the instrument-free "Caravan Of Love". The Housemartins are fervent socialists who loathe the extravagance of the royal family and proclaim themselves true Christians, "though we still get drunk and pick our noses in public."

- Paul Heaton has an unhealthy obsession with football and proclaims "football is my first love and probably my last."
- Stan has embarked on a quest to become "the most boring man in the world."
- Hugh can talk for hours about **Frank Sinatra** and peeps, "I read poetry as well!"
- Norman is the group's "pin-up", though he finds the whole predicament "*really* embarrassing."

HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS *


PICTORIAL PRESS

▲ Huey Lewis (but not The News).

● **HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS:**
- Main group person **Huey Lewis** – who sings and writes the songs – was born in New York, his mum was a Polish artist, his dad a jazz drummer and medical student.
- He got "hooked" on music at the age of 12, when his bohemian mum brought home a **Bob Dylan** LP.
- His first group **Slippery Elm**, were "*desperate*. The rural stuff, that was our vibe . . ."
- His next group, **Clover**, were a clapped-out rock combo who came to Britain at the time of punk, "got gobbed on tons", and were entirely success-free.
- His *next* group, i.e. Huey Lewis & The News, are very successful *indeed* thanks to hits like "The Power Of Love" and "It's Hip To Be Square".
- He appears in the film *Back To The Future* – for seven seconds!
- He used to be a yoghurt salesman.
- He likes playing golf.

* WHITNEY HOUSTON *



● **WHITNEY HOUSTON:** began singing in nightclubs at the age of 15, and by the age of 16 she was a highly paid model. She's now 23 and has already established herself as one of the most successful female singers of the decade, beating **Madonna** into second place at the prestigious 1986 American Grammy Awards, and scoring hits all over the planet with singles like "The Greatest Love Of All" and "Saving All My Loving For You". She's got fairly impressive relations, too: her mother is soul star **Cissy Houston** and her aunt is famed '70s singer **Dionne Warwick**.

THE HUMAN LEAGUE


PAUL RIDER

▲ The Human League, left to right: Joanne Catherall, Susan Sulley and Philip Oakey.

● **THE HUMAN LEAGUE:** were originally formed as the synthesisers-only project of **Martyn Ware** and **Ian Craig Marsh**, though they departed to form **Heaven 17** in October 1980 leaving behind the supposedly uncreative half of The Human League – namely singer **Philip Oakey** and slide show operator **Adrian Wright**. These two then recruited a couple of teenage school-girls – **Joanne Catherall** and **Susan Sulley** – in a Sheffield disco, and to everyone's surprise, made the incredibly successful "Dare" LP. Since then they have always taken years between records, faffed around a lot, and have a reputation for being rather awkward ("because we are", they boast). They emerged revitalised last year (minus Adrian) with the huge hit, "Human", and all still live in Sheffield, where Philip and Joanne share a house.

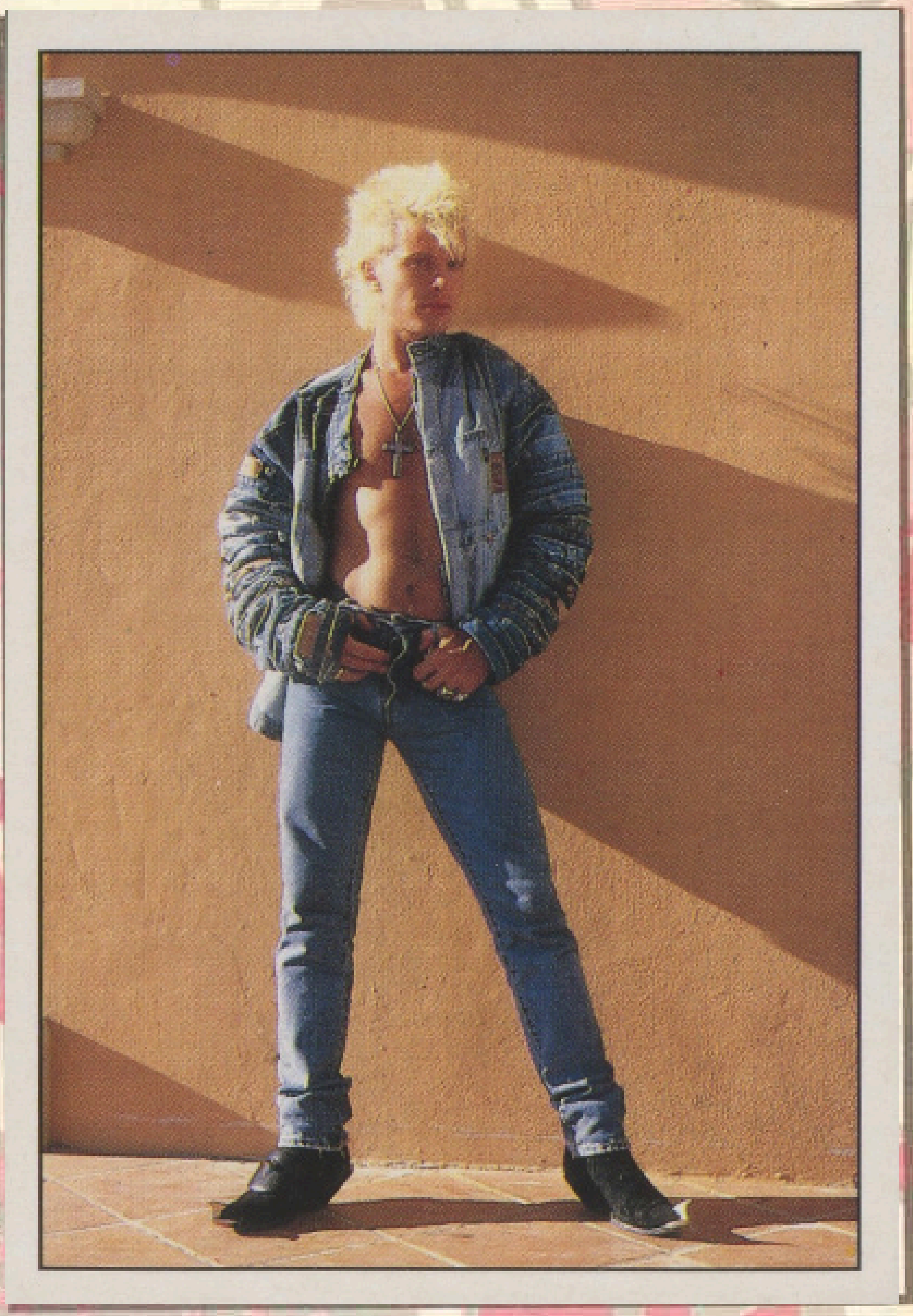
I

BILLY IDOL



◀ Billy Idol (far left) in his Generation X days; the bloke next to him in spook-hat and glasses is Tony James, now in Sigue Sigue Sputnik.

▼ Billy Idol as he is now.





● **BILLY IDOL:** the first punk group ever to appear on *Top Of The Pops* was **Generation X**, led by the sneering Billy Idol – real name **William Broad**, born 30/11/55 – a university drop-out who had hung around with **The Sex Pistols** in their early days. After three LPs the group broke up: bass player **Tony James** went off to form **Sigue Sigue Sputnik** (*see page 31*), while Billy went off to become a huge star in America with songs like "White Wedding", "Rebel Yell" and "Eyes Without A Face". But the bigger a star Billy became, the more the world became convinced that he was completely bonkers: he posed for photos naked save for a leather jock-strap, he stormed out of a Radio One broadcast, he dropped his trousers in a New York restaurant and he kept promising to release a second LP which never appeared. Finally, last year the rumours circulated that he had gone totally off his trolley, that he was dying of a fatal disease, and even that he was dead! Then, as if nothing had ever happened, Billy thankfully materialised again with the long-awaited – and excellent – LP "Whiplash Smile". A far calmer and happier person these days, Billy spends a lot of time with his parents and says he just wants to be "a normal person".

● **Billy has said:**

● "**Boy George** once called me a head without a brain, and **John Lydon** always called me the **Perry Como** of punk, but so what? Ha ha!"

● "The biggest misconception about me is that I'm stupid."

● "The thing about Billy Idol is . . . he *is* bonkers – but he's bonkers about music."

INXS



▲ INXS, left to right: Tim Farris, Michael Hutchence (back), Jon Farris, Andrew Farris, Gary Beers and Kirk Pengilly (front).

● **INXS:** are often referred to as "the Australian **Duran Duran**" thanks to their fanatical following in their homeland, but a) have much longer hair and b) play a much "raunchier", slightly funk-oriented rock'n'roll. They were formed in 1977 as **The Farris Brothers**, became INXS the next year, had an Australian hit the year after and finally started getting noticed in Britain last year with their "Listen Like Thieves" LP. Their singer **Michael Hutchence** has been described as "a nimbler, less theatrical **Mick Jagger**" and has been known to boast "I am a fairly sexual person". He has also recently returned to his original ambition of acting by starring in an Australian film called *Dogs In Space* – a *very* strange name.

IRON MAIDEN



▲ Ver Maiden, left to right: Dave Murray, Bruce Dickinson, Steve Harris, Nicko McBrain and Adrian Smith.

● **IRON MAIDEN:** are **Bruce Dickinson** (vocals), **Nicko McBrain** (drums), **Dave Murray** (guitar), **Adrian Smith** (another guitar) and **Steve Harris** (bass). Formed by Steve and Dave 10 years ago in London's East End, the stunningly successful heavy metal troupe are easily spottable by their mascot **Eddie** – a ten foot tall half-robot, half-decomposing body which appears on the cover of all their records and during their spectacularly theatrical live concerts. They are also renowned for having more literate lyrics than is usual, perhaps because Bruce studied History at university. A mild-mannered bunch, the group enjoy reading weighty books about the navy, eating baked beans, fencing and the occasional spot of fly-fishing.

● Background: Billy Idol-style fake tattoos from 1967 and a pervgusting "Donny" (i.e. Osmond) cap from 1973 (he was Michael Jackson's biggest rival at the time).

J

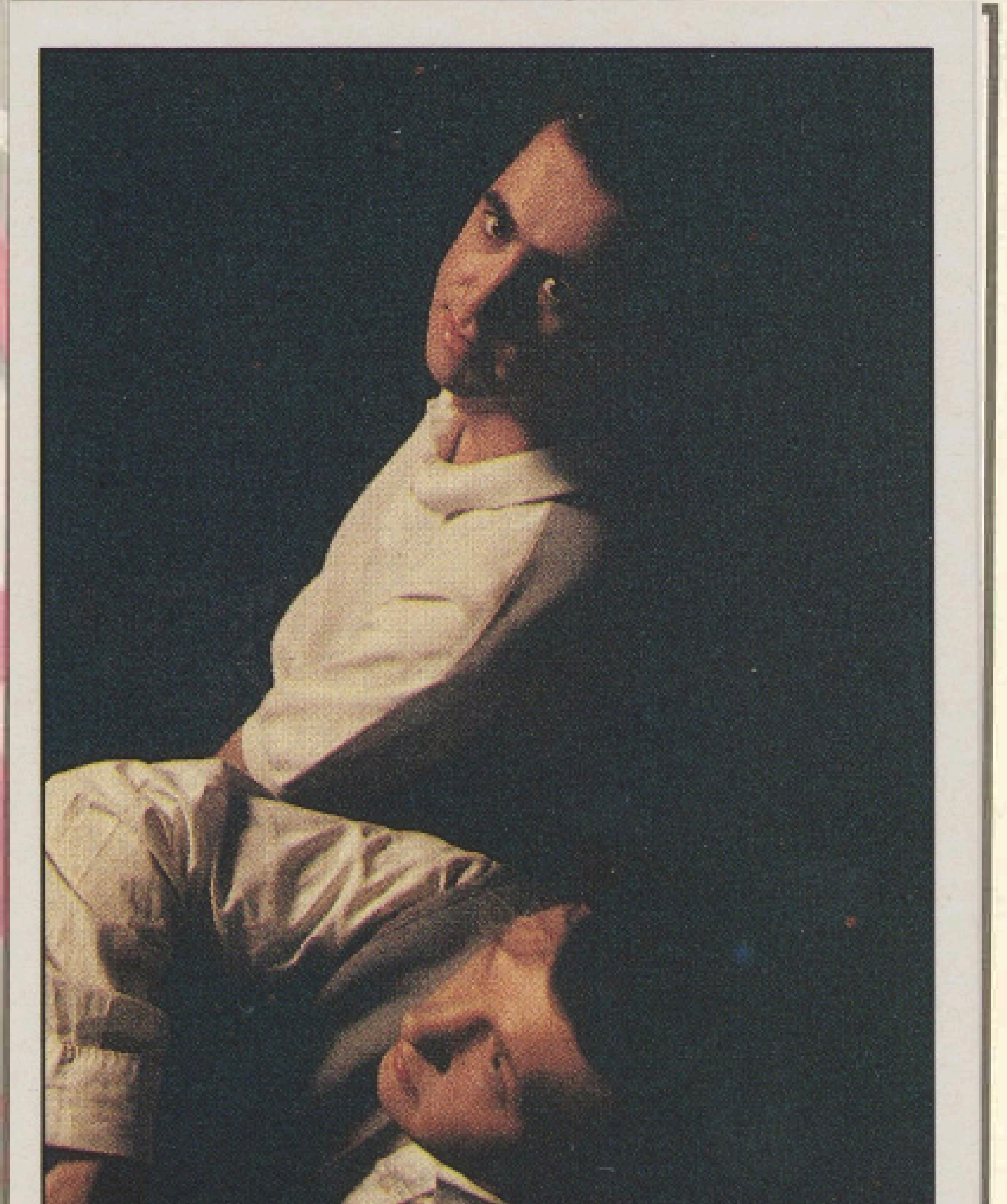
IT BITES



▲ It Bites, left to right: Richard Nolan, Frank Dunnery (top), Robert Dalton and Jon Beck (bottom).

● **IT BITES:** namely **Richard Nolan, Robert Dalton, Jon Beck** and **Francis Dunnery** who were all born and grew up in the sleepy village of Egremont in Cumbria. They'd known each other for eight years and played in groups together for almost as long before having their first hit, "Calling All The Heroes", in August 1986. Their musical apprenticeship was served playing cover versions of **Level 42** and **Haircut 100** songs in dodgy working mens' clubs which, according to the group, were "so rough there were even tattoos on the chair arms". Although they all seem to have funny hairstyles and flashy clothes, they still maintain that they're average blokes: "We're not renowned for our elegance. None of us have any dress sense, we just like to drink and play."

IT'S IMMATERIAL

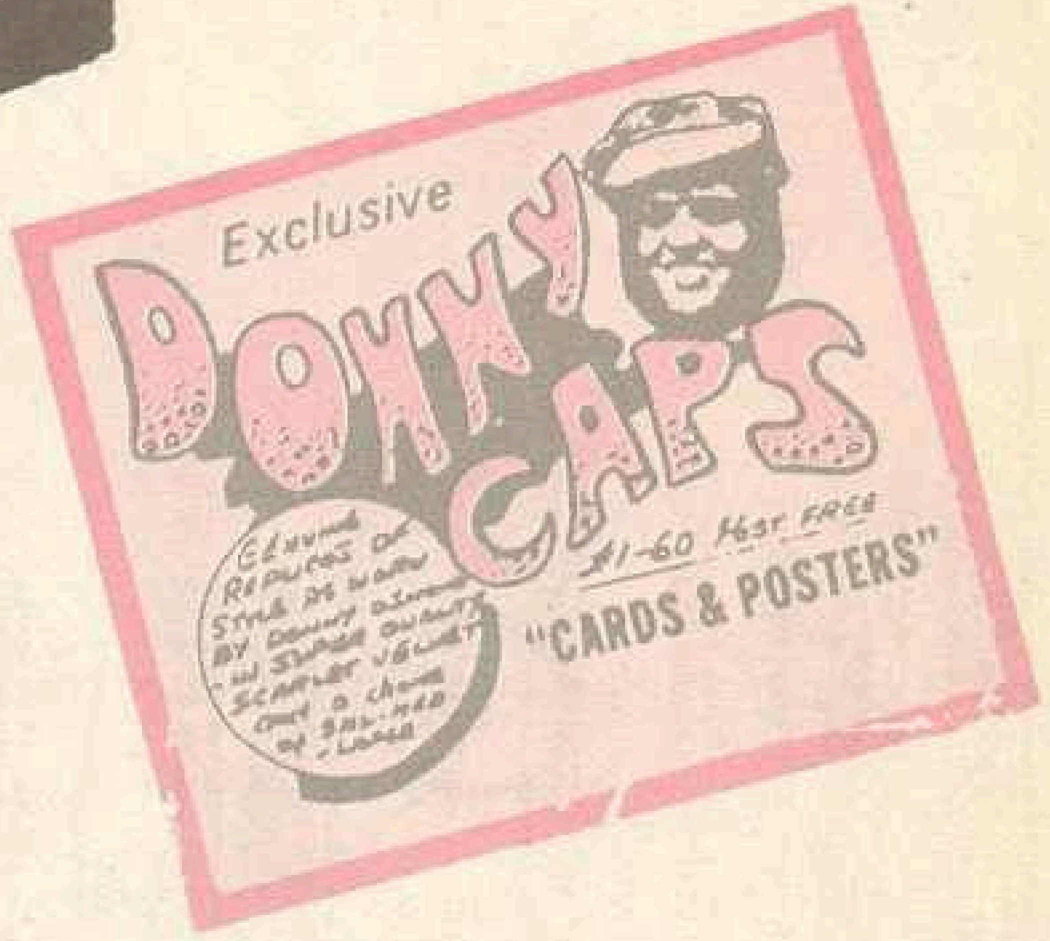


▲ It's Immaterial: John Campbell (top) and John "Jarvis" Whitehead.

● **IT'S IMMATERIAL:** The Liverpudlian duo's career in pop had been a bit of a washout until last year, with one failed record contract and an excellent but flop single, "Ed's Funky Diner". Then they recorded a song called "Driving Away From Home (Jim's Tune)" and all of a sudden they were one of the new discoveries of 1986. They are **John "Jarvis" Whitehead**, who's an ex-butcher's boy, and **John "Campbell" Campbell**, an ex-art student, both originally from Manchester and known collectively to their fans as "Itsy". "We've even been called Bits Of Material," "quips" Jarvis, explaining that they chose this mouthful when, searching for a group name in 1980, they concluded "It's immaterial what we call ourselves . . ."

● The most embarrassing LP in Jarvis' collection is "Phantasmagoria" by dippy old hippies **Curved Air**.

● Campbell claims that the Queen's corgis are . . . mechanical!!



MICHAEL JACKSON

● **MICHAEL JACKSON:** born 29/8/58 into the huge Jackson family, and by the age of 10 was having hits as lead singer of the **Jackson 5**. In the '70s he launched a parallel solo career, which with the albums "Off The Wall" and "Thriller" (the biggest selling album ever – over 40 million sold) made him into a true megastar. A reclusive Jehovah's Witness, Michael's personal life is surrounded by endless weird rumours. He lives surrounded by a bizarre menagerie of animals including giraffes, snakes, llamas and his pet monkey **Bubbles**, whom he apparently dresses up in a dinner suit and teaches tricks. Michael is entranced by *Walt Disney* films and apparently has a vast array of Disney memorabilia, including a room filled with a working set from *Peter Pan*; last year he went so far as to make a fantastically expensive 17 minute three-dimensional film called *Captain Eo*, which is only being screened in America's Disneyland and DisneyWorld. He's also good mates with **Paul McCartney** – they've swapped songs for each others' albums and watch *Dumbo* and *Bambi* together while Michael interrogates Paul about **The Beatles** and the '60s – but that didn't stop Michael outbidding him for the rights to the Beatles' old songs, much to Paul's annoyance. Recent reports suggest increasingly eccentric behaviour from Michael – he's had extensive facial surgery to make his face "perfect", often wears a surgical mask when he goes out, and has had an oxygen chamber installed in his house, supposedly to extend his life. Michael himself simply says that he's never really been that at ease with day-to-day things and only feels truly at home on stage. "When it comes time to go off I don't want to. I feel like there are angels on all corners, protecting me," he squeaks. "I could *sleep* onstage."



▲ Michael Jackson in the early 70s when he was a mere lad.

▼ Michael Jackson now, an awful lot of plastic surgery later.



PICTORIAL PRESS

J

JANET JACKSON



● **JANET JACKSON:** The youngest of nine children, Janet Jackson is the most successful female in the famous Jackson family. Last year she annulled her brief marriage with singer **James De Barge** (with whom she'd run off when she was only 18, being "disowned" by her family in the process), released the tough disco LP "Control", and found success with singles like "When I Think Of You", "Nasty" and "What Have You Done For Me Lately". Reconciled with her family, she now lives with brother **Michael** and their huge menagerie of exotic animals. Although very shy, she claims to sleep with snakes, wants to own a king cobra, and recommends peanut butter as the best way of removing bubblegum from hair.

THE JESUS & MARY CHAIN

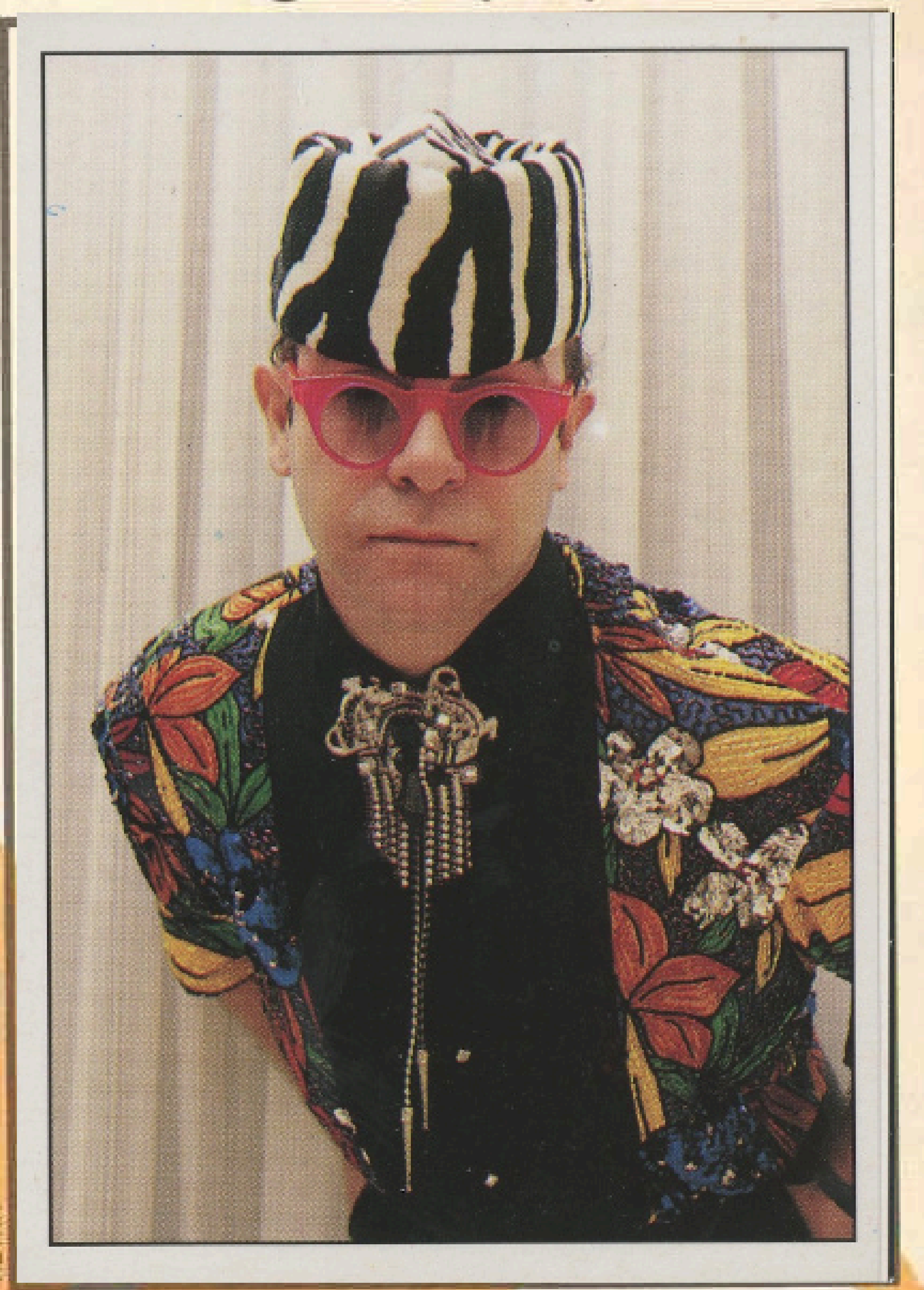


ANDY CATLIN

▲ **The Reid brothers: William (left) and Jim.**

● **THE JESUS & MARY CHAIN: Jim** and **William Reid**, two scruffy, spotty brothers from East Kilbride in Scotland, formed the group with bassist **Douglas Hart** and part-time drummer **Bobby Gillespie**. They quickly became famous for their short, monotonous but hummable tunes smothered in a brilliantly ghastly wash of feedback noise, not to mention the riots at their shambolic 20 minute long concerts, but weren't taken very seriously. However they surprised everyone who dismissed them as a joke (i.e. nearly everybody) by releasing a tremendous LP, "Psycho Candy", and with their tuneful hit single "Some Candy Talking". Now they're busy recording their second LP – more subtle, tuneful and varied – with new musicians.

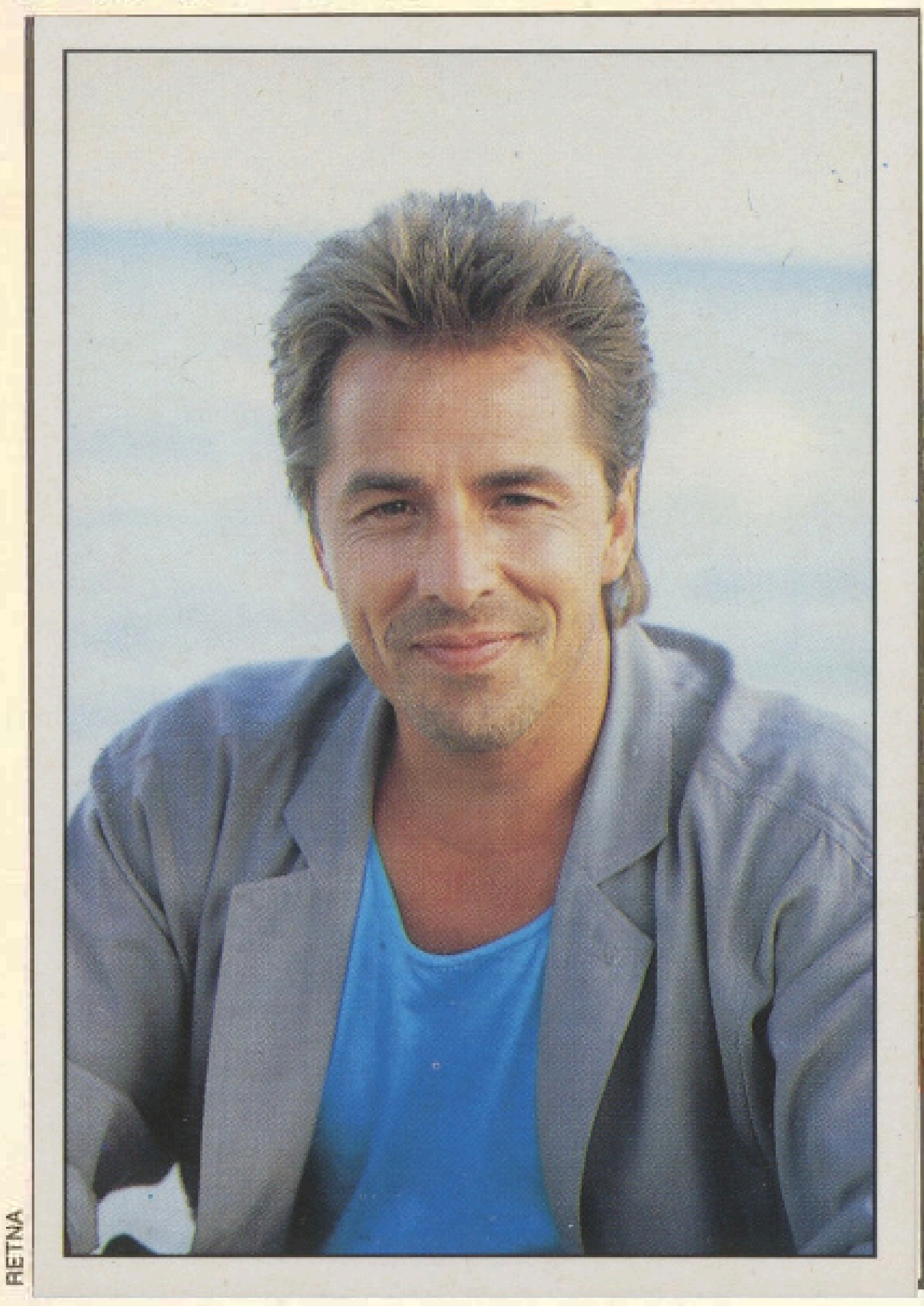
ELTON JOHN



RETNA

● **ELTON JOHN:** born in 1947, he was christened **Reginald Dwight**. His name-change came at 22, followed by an enormously successful career in the early '70s as a pianist and songwriter, well known for his outrageously hideous stage costumes and giant platform boots. A lull followed until the early 80s, when he revitalised his career, got married (having previously claimed to be gay), had a not (very) successful hair transplant (hence his giant hats) and became chairman of Watford Football Club, a life-long dream. He has produced absolutely streams of hits and is a good mate of many other pop stars like **George Michael** and **Rod Stewart**. Last year he fulfilled his "last ambition in life": he wrote a jingle for *Cadburys* chocolate, and also starred in their TV ad.

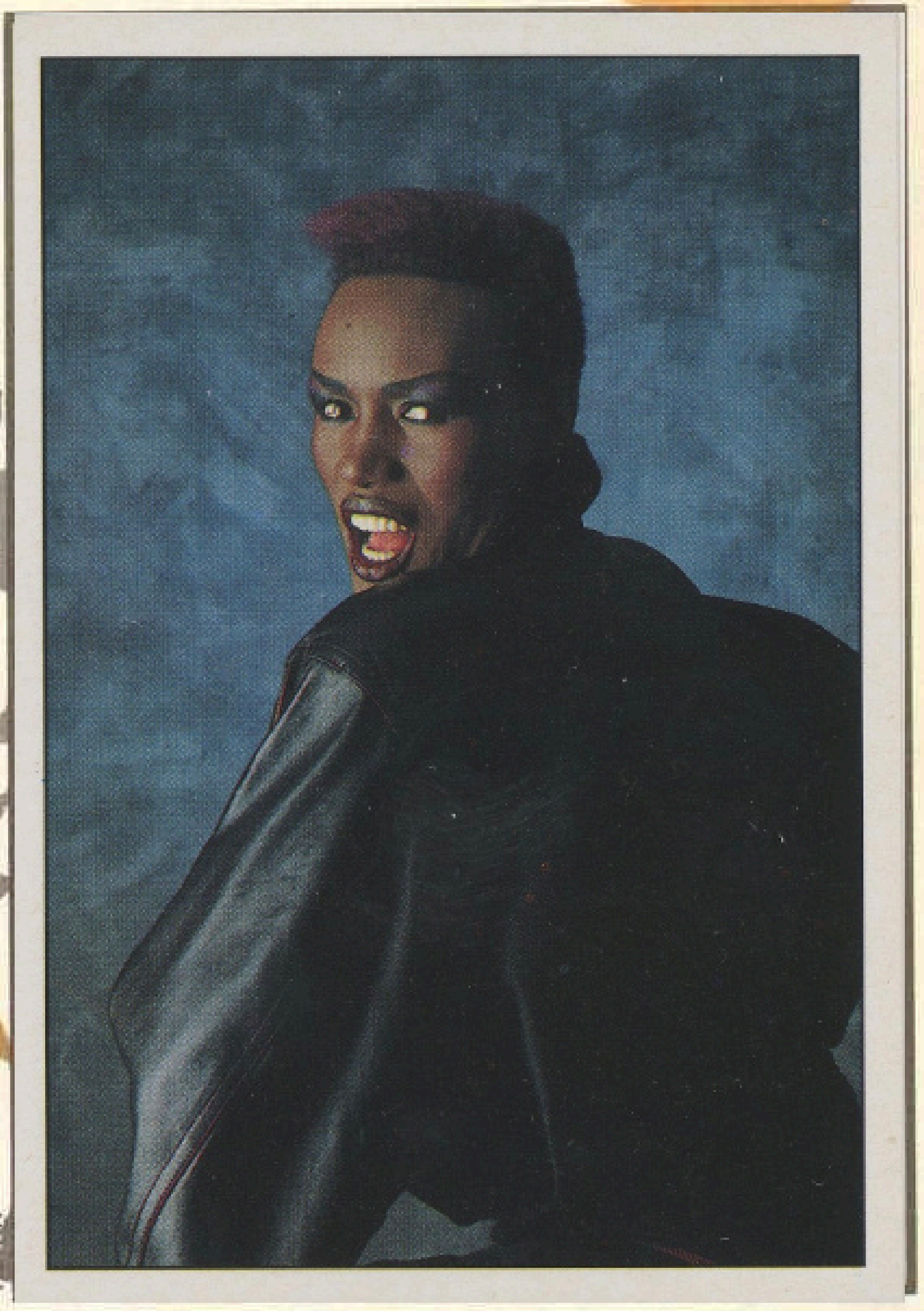
DON JOHNSON



RETNA

● **DON JOHNSON:** Most famous as **Sonny Crockett**, the sockless be-stubbled designer-suited detective in TV series *Miami Vice*, Don Johnson has always wanted to be a pop star as well, especially after he appeared on stage with and wrote some songs for hippie band **The Allman Brothers** in the late '70s. Seeing as his partner and rival in *Miami Vice*, **Philip Michael Thomas**, found nothing but failure and humiliation when he made a record, Don agrees that he is "taking a risk", but it's one that seems to be paying off. His first album, "Heartbeat" – full of American rock songs sung in his American rock voice – has done reasonably well in Britain and *preposterously* well in America.

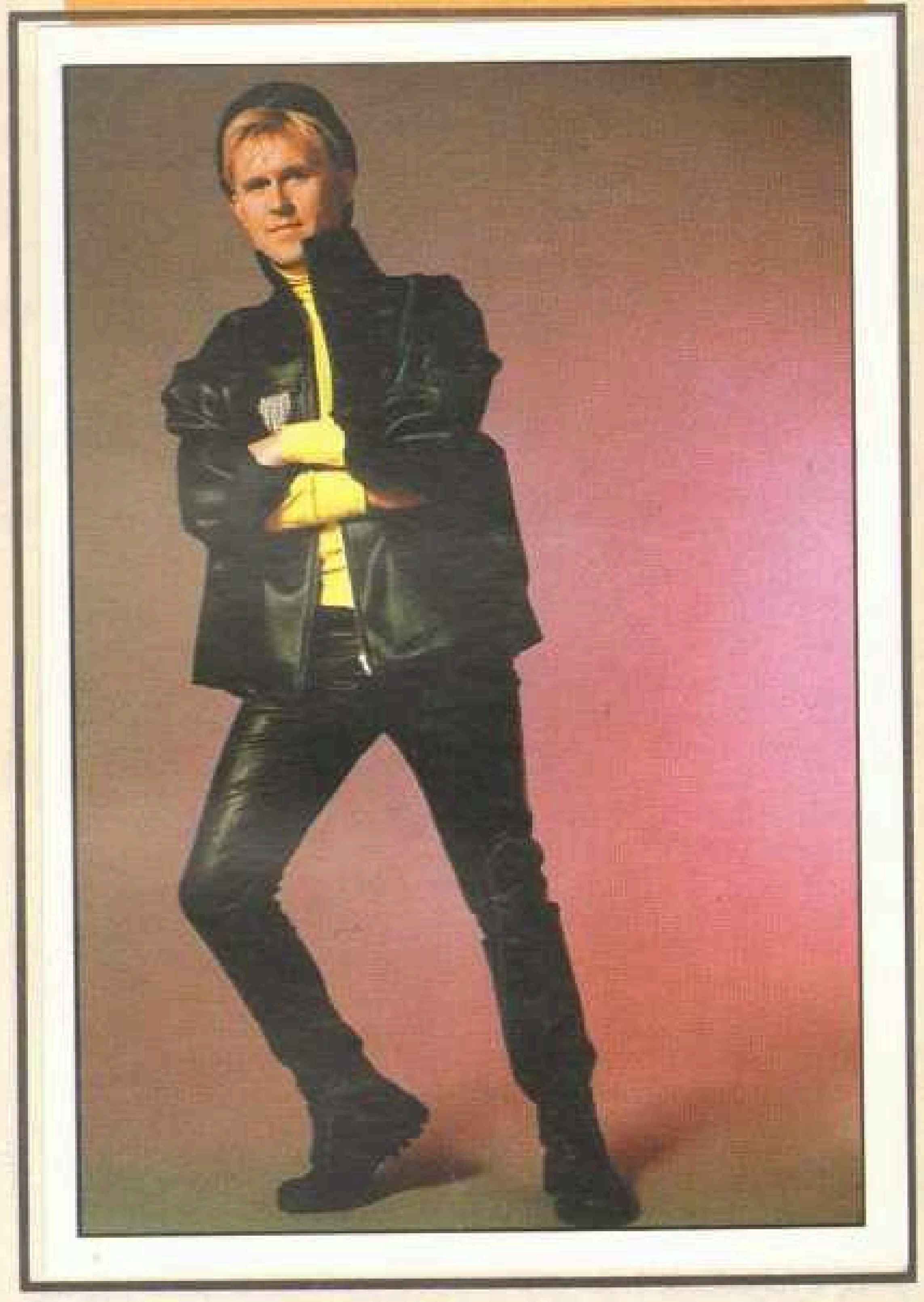
GRACE JONES



RETNA

● **GRACE JONES:** born in Jamaica on 19/5/52, Grace Jones moved to New York and in the mid '70s released a string of unsuccessful Euro-disco records and worked in Paris as a catwalk model. There she met arty French photographer **Jean-Paul Goude**, who started going out with her and completely re-styled her image. With her famous flat-top hairdo and some brilliant videos she started having spiky hi-energy hits like "Pull Up To The Bumper" and "Slave To The Rhythm". She's now split up with Jean-Paul and lives with their son in New York; she's recently been romantically "linked" with **Duran Duran's John Taylor**, about which he joked: "Hahaha. It's all true. Don't you wish you were me?"

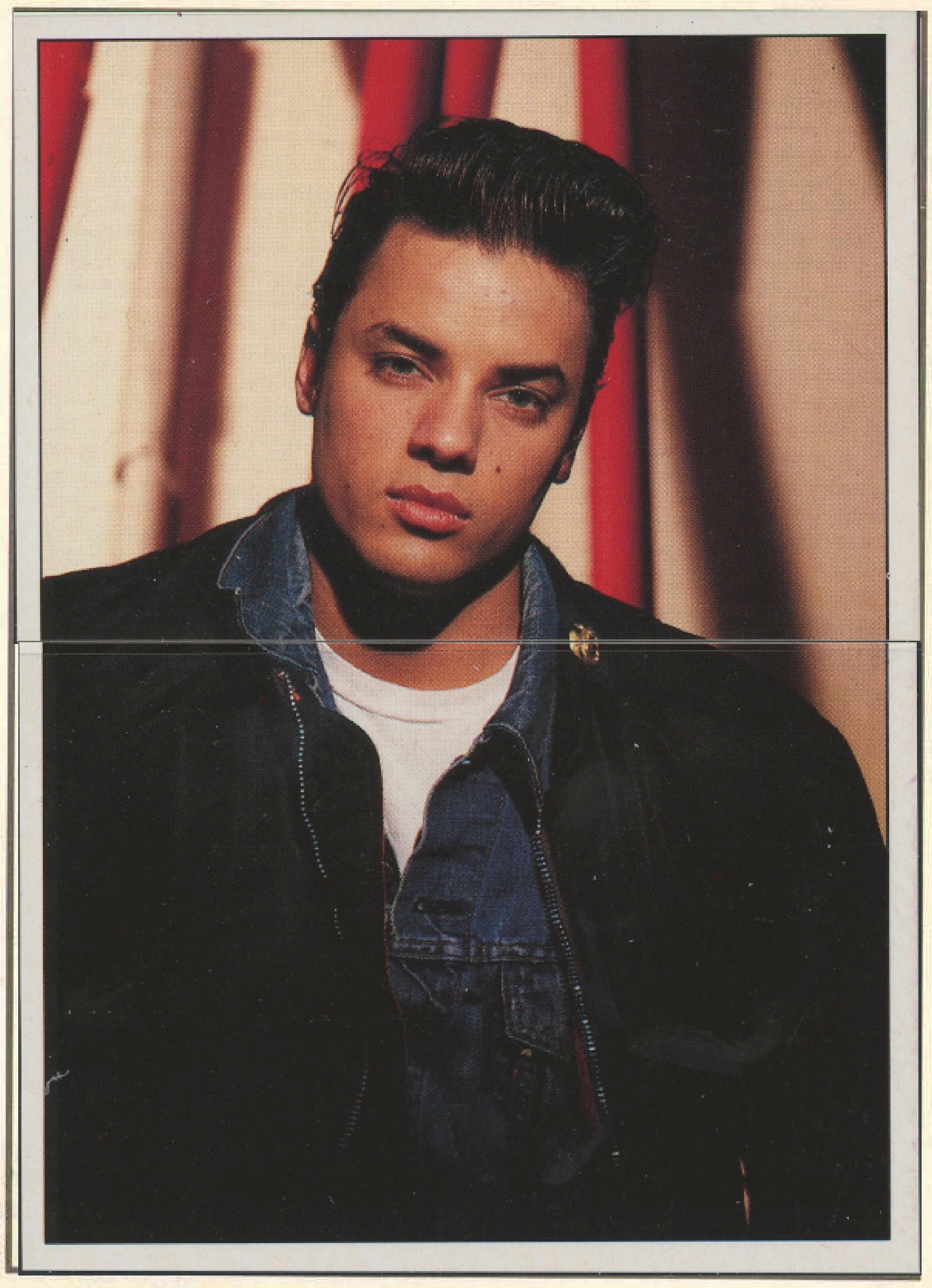
HOWARD JONES



● **HOWARD JONES:** born 23/2/55 in Southampton, Howard Jones is famed for his vegetarianism, for performing with a mime artist called **Jed**, and for a string of hit records that go back to 1983. He took up pop music seriously after quitting a course in classical music where he found he was "a bit of a misfit", and took to performing with Jed in his local pubs around High Wycombe before being "discovered". His debut single, "New Song", was one of his biggest hits; his third LP, "One to One", was released last year but proved his least successful to date. He now lives in Dublin with his wife **Jan** and oddly named baby boy **Osheen**, of whom he says: "I really enjoy wiping his bum!"

K

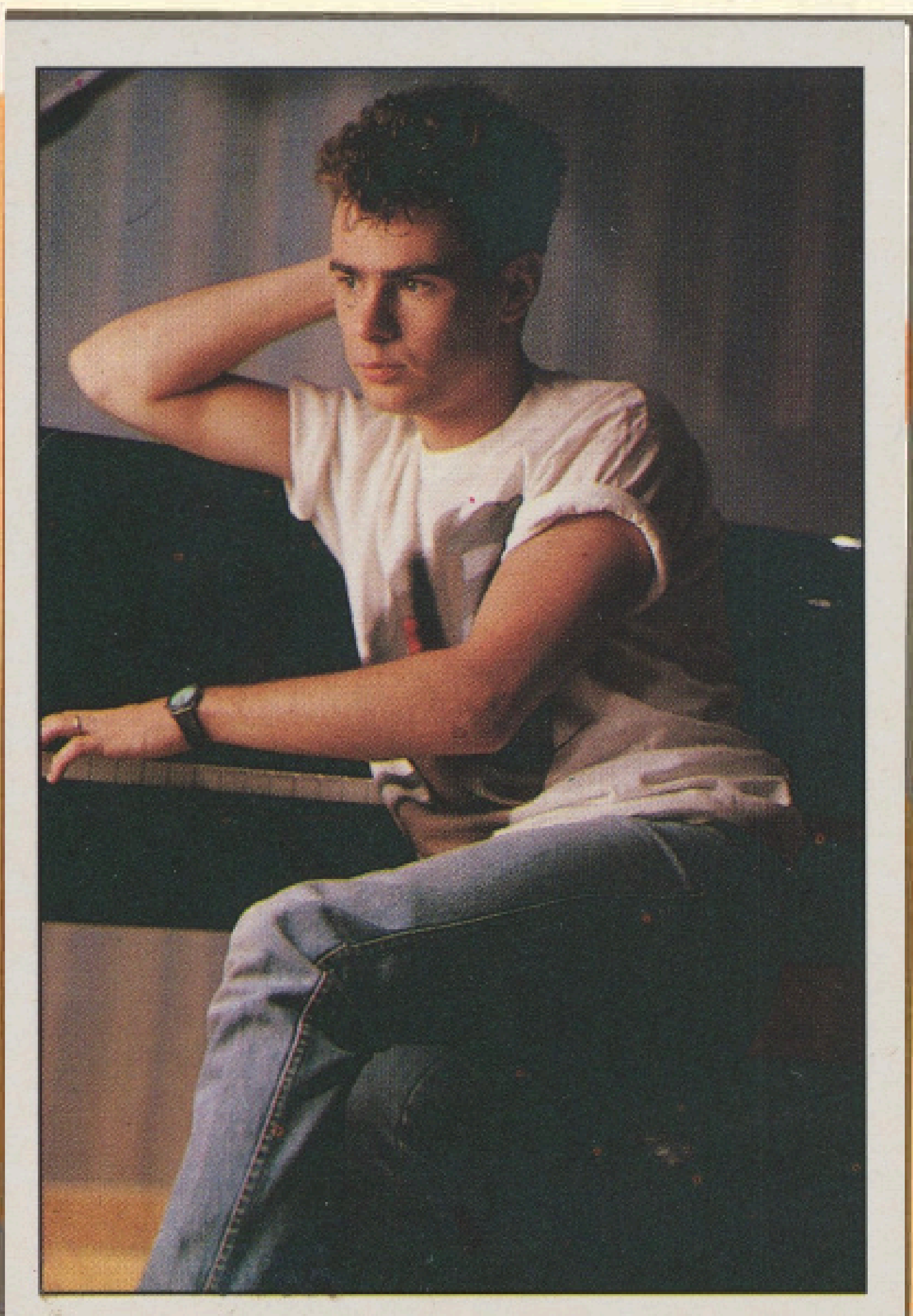
NICK KAMEN



PAUL RIDER

● **NICK KAMEN:** born 15/4/62, Nick is an ex-model who shot to stardom by looking handsome in a launderette in one of the most successful TV advertisements of all time – for *Levi 501s*. Brought up in Harlow, Essex with his seven brothers and sisters, his life-long ambition to become a pop star was realised when he was "spotted" by **Madonna** (who reckons his voice is "beautiful"), who offered to write and produce a song for him. "Each Time You Break My Heart" was, inevitably, a huge hit. Nick now spends most of his time avoiding the screaming girlies who follow him wherever he goes, avoiding "news"paper reporters who forever accuse him of spooning with Madonna ("untrue", he blushes), zwinging between his flat in London and New York to see his not-very-ugly girlfriend **Talisa**, scoffing *sushi* (raw Japanese fish – blee!), saying "I can't *help* what I look like! Sometimes I think being good-looking has been a *hinderance* to me" and wondering what life would be like if he was an ant. (Not much cop, probably.)

NIK KERSHAW



● **NIK KERSHAW:** was born 1/3/58 in Bristol but raised in Ipswich. After a slightly wayward childhood – a skinhead phase, a hippie phase and an atrocious school group, **Half Pint Hog** – he settled down for three years to work in a dole office, by night playing in jazz/funk band **Fusion**, who doubled as a cabaret act by wearing purple velvet suits and green shirts whilst jigging through dreadful "tunes" like "The Birdie Song". He was eventually discovered by manager **Mickey Modern** and, after a hiccup when his first single, "I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me", flopped (it was later successfully re-released), he achieved stardom and became famous for his (lack of) height, his "snood"-type headgear (quickly disposed of) and, later, his rather obscure lyrics. He now lives in the countryside just outside London with his Canadian wife, **Sheri**, and works hard on the serious, musicianly aspect of his music.



RETNA

KILLING JOKE

● **KILLING JOKE:** are frequently referred to as "the most horrible group in the world," mainly because they say things like "**U2** are vile Christian creatures" and boast that they'd gladly gobble up plentiful meals in front of starving Ethiopians. Their singer and leader **Jaz Coleman**, who once bunked off to Iceland on a bizarre religious mission, writes symphonies, talks earnestly about the philosophy he's invented called Pantheism and claims that the group are just misunderstood. Despite their immense personal weirdness, Killing Joke's music – dense noisy rhythms over which Jaz chants with increasing tunefulness as the years pass by – is remarkably simple and basic.

◄ Killing Joke, left to right: Paul "Raven" Raven, Paul Ferguson, Geordie and Jaz Coleman.

● **Background: A v. "groovy" mini-skirt and psychedelic top from 1966 and 1970 respectively.**

L

CYNDI LAUPER



RETNA

- **CYNDI LAUPER**
- She was born in Brooklyn, New York, on 22/6/53.
- She wrote her first song at the age of 11.
- She used to be in a group called **Blue Angel**, but they weren't frightfully successful.
- She made it to the top in 1984 with the single "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun".
- From 1983 to 1985 she managed the world champion woman wrestler **Wendy Richter**.
- She's terribly in love with her manager, who's called **David Wolff** and is a bit of a hippie.
- She wrote the music to the **Steven Spielberg** film *Goonies*.
- She came back last year with a worldwide hit single, "True Colours".
- She doesn't eat red meat.
- Some people think her a little bonkers.

LEVEL 42



SHEILA ROCK

▲ True Fact: Level 42's Mark King (above) has insured his hands for one million pounds!

● **LEVEL 42:** Formed in London in 1979, they're led by **Mark King**, who's an absolute "whiz" on the bass guitar. **Boon Gould** plays the guitar, his brother **Phil** drums and **Mike Lindup** plays keyboards and all four grew up on the Isle Of Wight. Among their first hits were "The Sun Goes Down" and "The Chinese Way", but they decided in 1986 that a major change in direction would do them no harm and took to wearing trendier clothes, writing more melodic songs and playing down the fact that Mark was an absolute "whiz" on the bass guitar. Why? "I found I was playing extremely fast just to please people," says Mark. "If you carry on like that you stand the risk of becoming a parody of yourself."

LLOYD COLE & THE COMMOTIONS



● **LLOYD COLE & THE COMMOTIONS:** Lloyd Cole, a chubby-cheeked bookworm who is rather partial to American literature, banana sandwiches and the odd round of golf, was born on 31/1/61 in Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, where he suffered terribly as a child because of his **Marc Bolan**-inspired purple velvet flared loon-pants. These days he gets his revenge by singing complicated, witty songs set to jangly guitar tunes with his band The Commotions. He reckons that he's written nearly all his best songs since he found happiness with his journalist girlfriend **Elaine**, and claims that if he weren't Lloyd Cole, he'd like to be arty French film star **Alain Delon**, "because he was right good-looking."

◀ Lloyd Cole and his shadow . . .

M

MADNESS



GERED MANKOWITZ

▲ Madness back when they were a giant one-ness, clockwise from left: Suggs (in kilt), Mark (in van), Woody, Lee, Chris, Mike and Carl (under the van!)

● **MADNESS:** were **Lee Thompson** (sax), **Carl "Chas Smash" Smythe** (trumpet/vocals), **Daniel "Woody" Woodgate** (drums), **Chris Foreman** (guitar), **Mike Barson** (keyboards), **Mark Bedford** (bass) and **Suggs** (vocals). Originally a ska group called the **North London Invaders**, Madness helped invent the glistening "ska invasion" of 1979 which saw the entire population wearing black and white "two-tone" garments and jiggling up and down to their first single, "The Prince"/"Madness", which zoomed, most refreshingly, into the charts. What followed was a stream of hugely successful jauntalong pop tunes accompanied by some of the most splendid videos ever made: "One Step Beyond" (also their first LP), "Night Boat To Cairo", "My Girl", "Baggy Trousers" and many more. After playing one zwillion concerts, having even *more* hits – "The Return Of The Los Palmos 7", "Grey Day", "Shut Up", "It Must Be Love" – and making a not-very-good film, *Take It Or Leave It*, by 1984 the group were slowly but surely toning down their nutty image. In 1985 reclusive song-writer Mike Barson left the group to "settle down" in Holland with his wife, and many predicted doom for the remaining members. They were wrong: Madness formed their own Zarjazz label and had even *more* hits, including a charity record for Ethiopia, "Starvation", followed by "Yesterday's Men" and "Uncle Sam". "We *have* changed," said Suggs at the time. "We're a lot more sensitive now." But – alas – their enthusiasm was already and obviously wilting. By the autumn of 1986 Madness had had enough. One last hit single was mustered – "Waiting For The Ghost Train", one last LP – "Utter Madness" – and one last compilation video of the same name, which featured the chaps trooping out of a doorway at the end whilst snivelling into their hankies (sob!) – the last vision we'd have of one of the greatest pop groups in the entire universe. "The only thing I regret," ponders a subdued Suggs, "is that we all grew up in different ways." Sad but true.

MARILLION



▲ Marillion, left to right: Ian Mosley, Pete Trewaras, Mark Kelly, Steve Rothery and Fish (below, centre).

● **MARILLION:** were orginally called **Silmarillion**, after a novel by **Tolkein**, author of goblin classics *The Hobbit* and *Lord Of The Rings*. They formed in 1979 (back when it was fashionable to have short spiky hair and write short spiky songs), and started showing off their flowing locks, singing 17-minute songs about mythical characters, putting pretentious paintings on their record sleeves, talking about "concept albums" and generally acting (and sounding) very much like early '70s pomp-rock groups such as **Genesis**, **Yes**, and **Gentle Giant**. And did it work? Of course it did. They even managed a huge hit single with the pretty ballad "Kayleigh". Generally the four musicians are happy to stay in the background and let huge, ex-tree-felling Scottish singer **Fish** get on with his two main hobbies: drinking and arguing.

MIDNIGHT STAR



MCA

● **MIDNIGHT STAR:** are a nine-piece soul group from Kentucky in America comprising three lead singers, a lead guitarist, a rhythm guitarist, a bass guitarist, a drummer and two synthesiser players who conjure up the sounds of horn, saxaphone, trumpets and flutes. "We're a big *big*-sound band!" bellows keyboard-player **Bo Watson**. Midnight Star are incredibly famous in America where the entire group met 10 years ago as hard-up students studying – believe it or not – The Music Business at Kentucky University. In those days they all lived in the one house where many happy hours were spent arguing and nicking each other's doughnuts. British success was accomplished with their groovaway thing "Headlines" last summer. "We all love each other," states Bo. Just as well.

THE MISSION



▲ The Mission, left to right: Craig Adams, Simon Hinkler, Wayne Hussey and Mick Brown.

● **THE MISSION:** are a Leeds group formed at the end of 1985 by **Wayne Hussey** and **Craig Adams** – ex-members of brilliant gothic cult group **Sisters of Mercy**. Joined by **Mick Brown** (ex-brilliant "indie" cult group **Red Lorry Yellow Lorry**) and **Simon Hinkler** (ex-useless punk group **Artery**), they became the first group ever to swirl straight to number one in the independent charts with a *first* single – "Serpent's Kiss". After a second successful double A-side single, "Garden Of Delight"/"Like A Hurricane", they followed their "get rich quick" philosophy – i.e. signed to a major label – and "Stay With Me" became a national chart hit. They describe themselves as "goppies – a cross between hippies and goths. Simon's a genuine hippie though – he talks to *bushes*!" Notorious for their excessive drinking and sexual habits ("I'm not fussy!" trumpets Wayne) they describe their existence as "one big joke – that nobody gets!"

ALISON MOYET



PAUL RIDER

● **ALISON MOYET:** For years after she was born on 18/6/61 Alison Moyet seemed happy singing in "earthy", bluesy pub bands until one day she agreed to help out **Vince Clarke** – just out of **Depeche Mode** and an acquaintance from her old oboe class – by singing on a song called "Only You". It was a huge hit, **Yazoo** were formed, she and Vince fell out, and she embarked upon an extremely successful solo career. Her personal life is currently in some turmoil, though – she has split from husband **Malcolm** (father of her baby **Joe**), her chicken met a grizzly fate and the goat she bought had to go because it was too destructive. It's all very sad . . .

● Background: Possibly the most "legendary" garment ever invented – giant flapaway curtainesque flared "loon" pants from the early '70s.

MADONNA



WEA

• Background: What trendsetting foxtresses wore when Madonna was a mere tot (i.e. not very much). The waistcoat is from 1970, the "dress" from 1967.

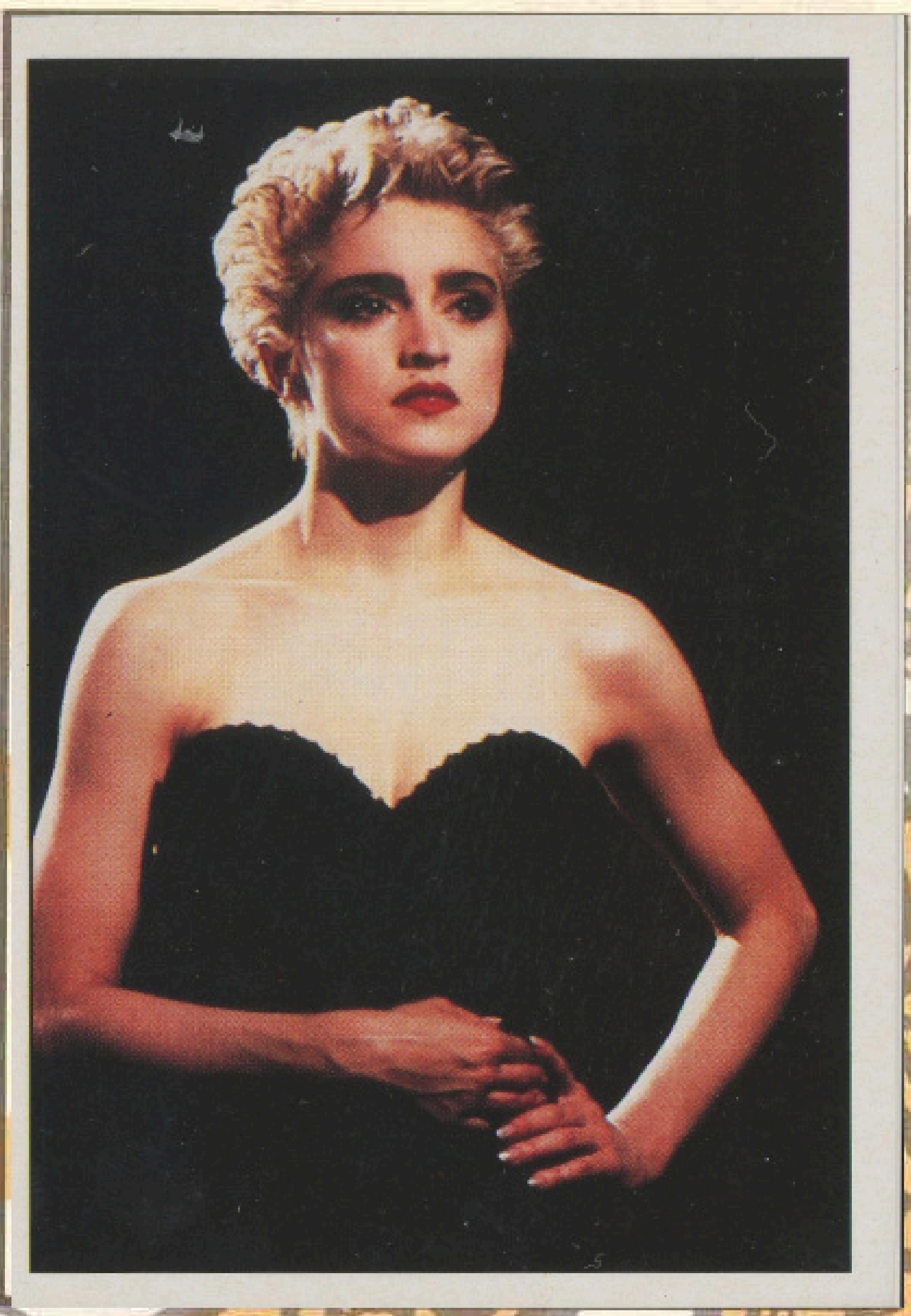
FOR ELEGIBLE TRENDSETTERS ONLY

Trendy

● **MADONNA:** born on 16/8/58 in Rochester, Michigan, USA, **Madonna Louise Ciccone** suffered the death of her mother (also called Madonna) from breast cancer before she was eight years old. From then on she was brought up by her defence systems engineer father **Tony** (real name **Sylvio**) and, to her horror, by the housekeeper he married a couple of years later. Little **Nonni** (as she was nicknamed) decided very early on not that she would necessarily be a pop star (she took piano lessons for a while but hated them) but simply that she was "going to have a special life". She'd do *anything* to get noticed – wear odd socks, have an egg fried on her stomach for a friend's movie, cover herself in fluorescent paint while dancing to records by **The Who** and wear "the most colourful, sexy underwear" and hang upside-down on the gym bars to show it off. Her first real inspiration, though, was her ballet teacher (and lover) **Christopher Flynn**, a bloke in his late '40s who encouraged her to find fame and fortune in New York. Before going there she studied ballet and modern dance at the University Of Michigan, where she met **Steve Bray**, later the co-writer of most of her most famous hits.

When she finally got to New York she was very broke, so lived on popcorn ("it fills you up and it's cheap"), took part time jobs in fast-food restaurants, lived in a cockroach-infested flat and eventually fell into a band called the **The Breakfast Club** with her boyfriend **Dan Gilroy**. She took a six month break from Dan when the managers of disco has-been **Patrick Hernandez** flew her to Paris to "make her a star" and gave her loads of money but never got round to doing anything else. After that she played with The Breakfast Club a bit more, dumped them, formed a series of bands (**The Millionaires**, **Modern Dance**, **Emmemon** and **Emmy**) with Steve Bray, made a dubious semi-porn "art" film called *A Certain Sacrifice*, did some nude modelling (shots later appeared in "men's" magazines) and eventually got a record contract and released her first single, "Everybody". Then DJ **John "Jellybean" Benitez** appeared and found her a song called "Holiday". It became a huge hit, and he became her boyfriend – later on it would be suggested that he was just one of many men, right from the very beginning, whom she had "used" to get where she is.

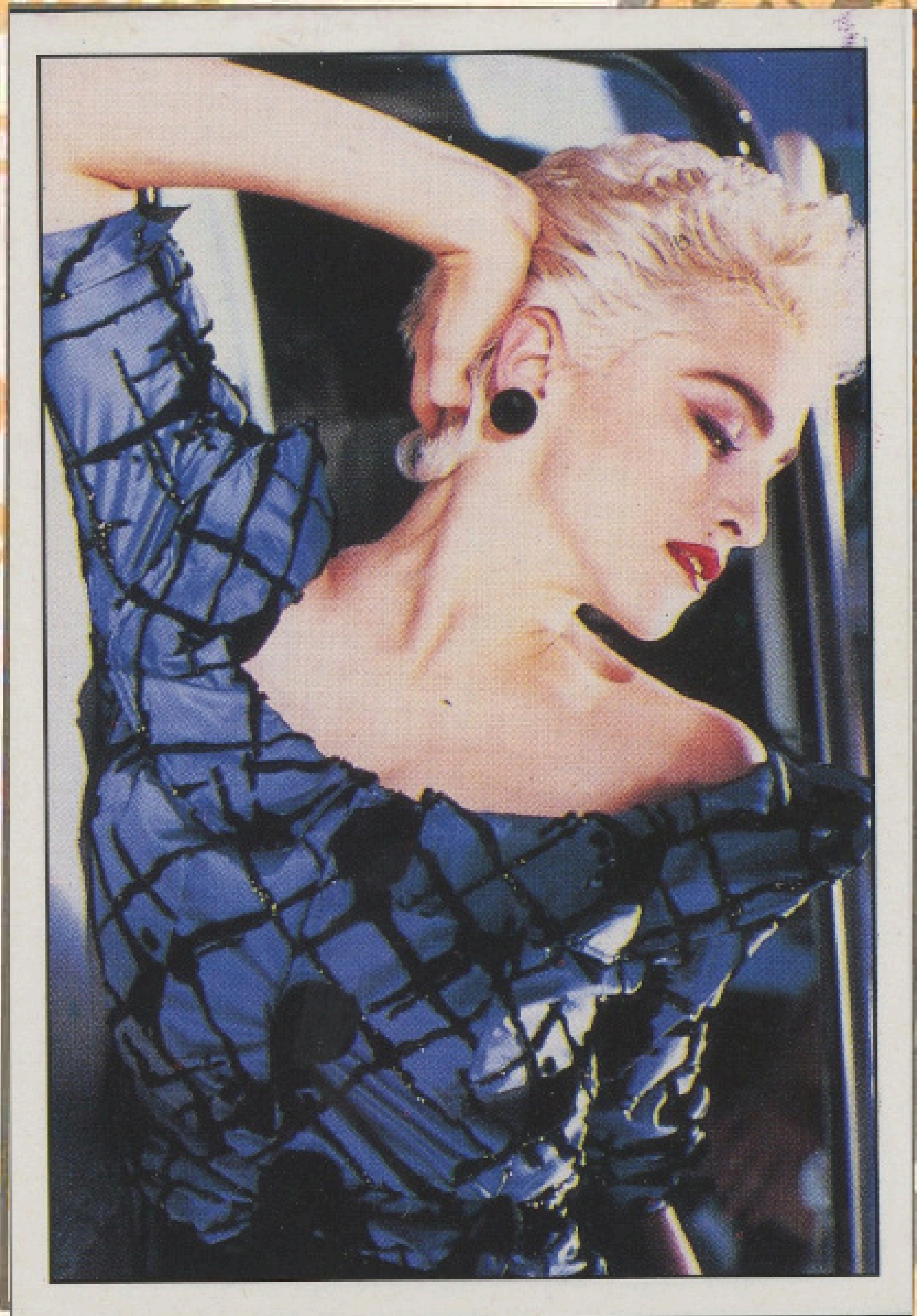
After the modest success of her first LP, "Madonna", she managed to move into films – singing two songs, "Crazy For You" and "Gambler", as a nightclub singer in *Vision Quest* (later retitled *Crazy For You*), then far more spectacularly as **Susan** in *Desperately Seeking Susan*. By the end of 1985 she'd had eight top ten singles in 12 months in Britain, nearly everyone had a copy of her "Like a Virgin" LP and she was a highly successful actress. And, just after saying "I wouldn't wish being Mr Madonna on anyone", she married actor **Sean Penn**. She also agreed to do her next film with him, playing a missionary in the severely unsuccessful *Shanghai Surprise*, though rumours soon circulated that their marriage was going downhill. Nevertheless her records continued to sell faster and faster, her "True Blue" LP becoming the best-selling yet.



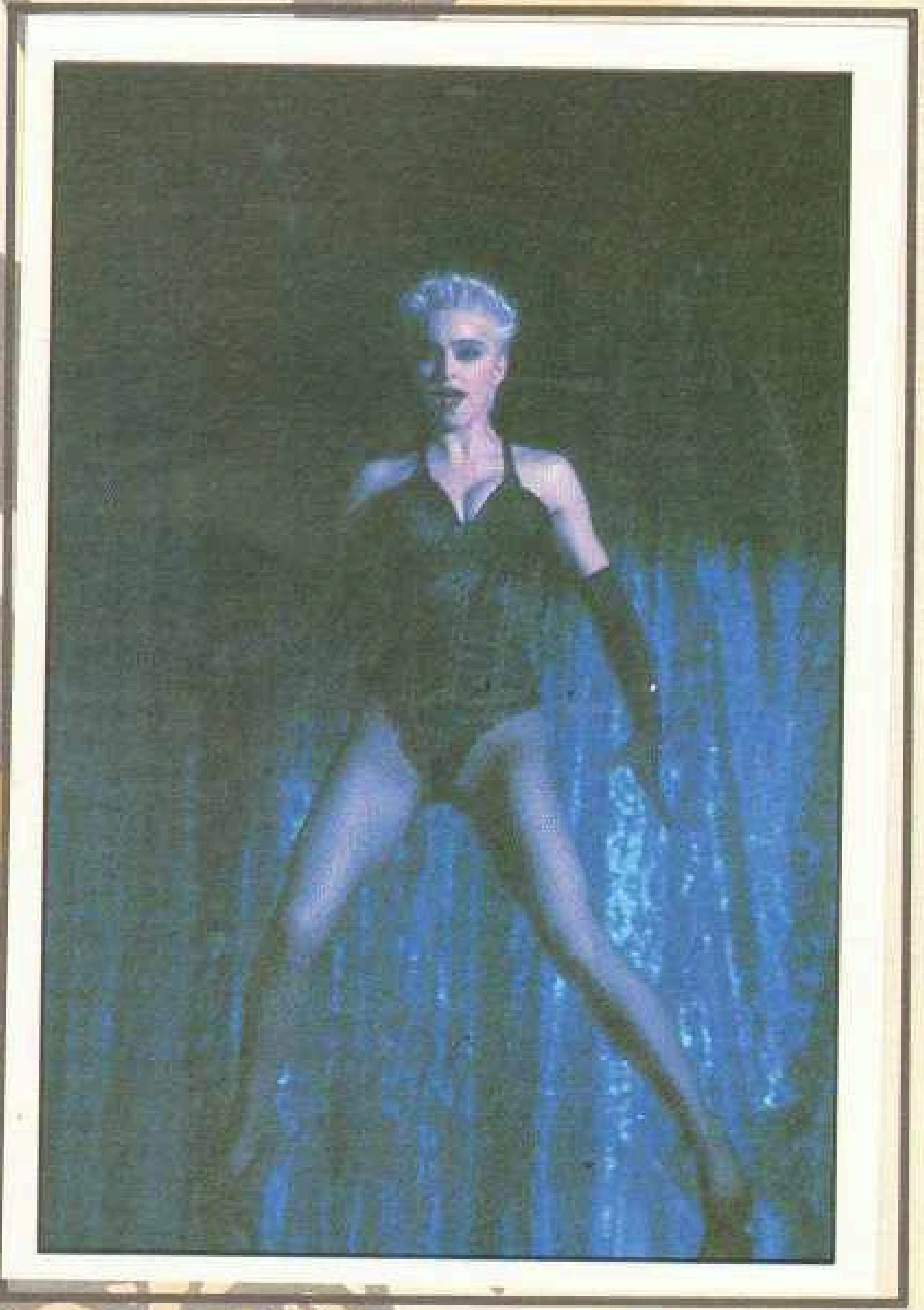
▲ Madonna from the "Papa Don't Preach" vid.



▲ Madonna at the time of making *Shanghai Surprise*.



▲ A scene from the "True Blue" vid.



▲ A scene from the steamy "Open Your Heart" vid.

DISCOGRAPHY

Figures in brackets are highest place reached in the British charts

(Fill in this year's releases as they come out.)

● SINGLES

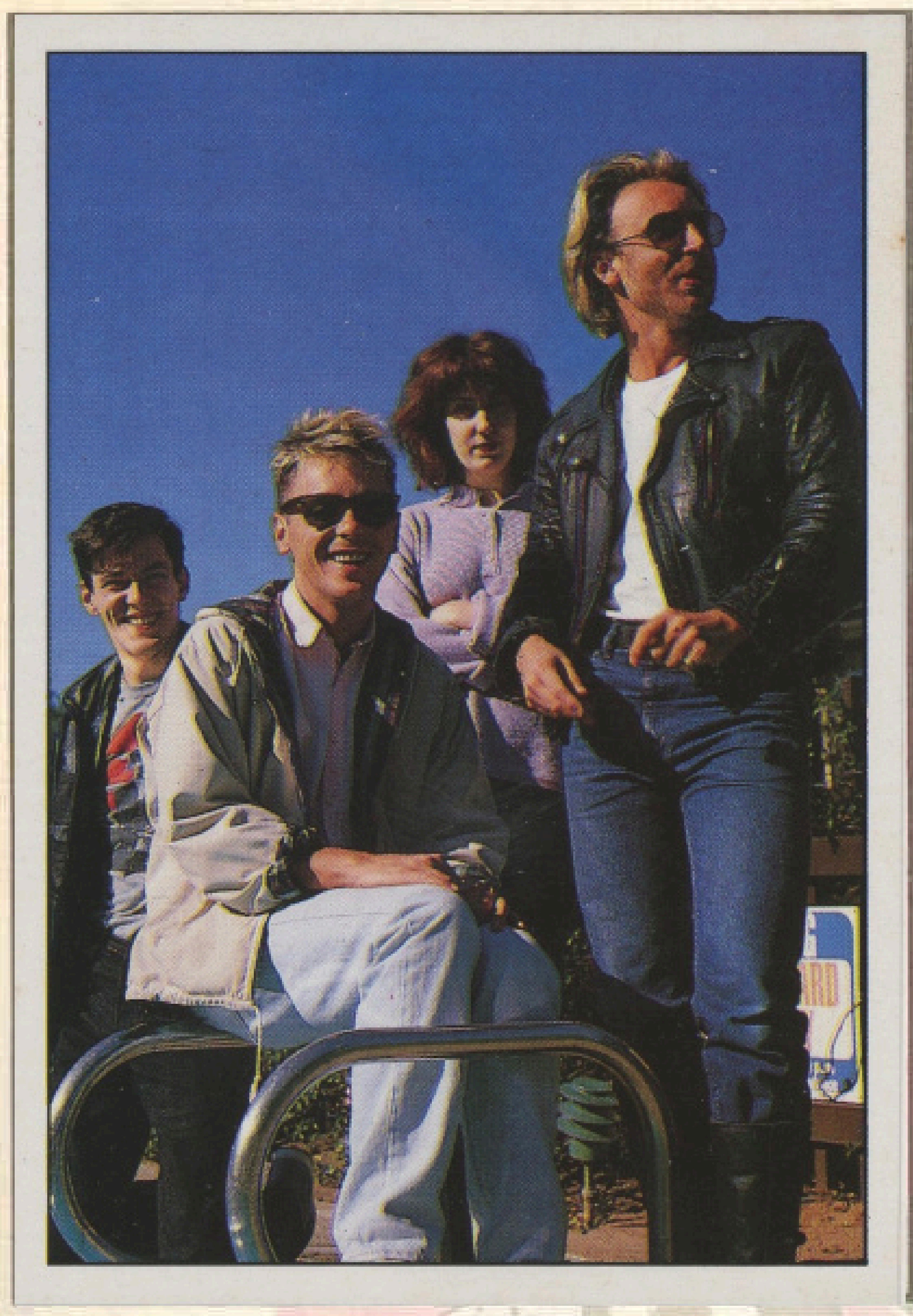
- Oct '82: **"Everybody"** *(nowhere!)*
- Sept '83: **"Lucky Star"** *(171)*
- Jan '84: **"Holiday"** *(7)*
- March '84: **"Lucky Star"** *(14)*
- May '84: **"Borderline"** *(58)*
- Nov '84: **"Like A Virgin"** *(3)*
- Feb '85: **"Material Girl"** *(3)*
- April '85: **"Crazy For You"** *(2)*
- July '85: **"Into The Groove"** *(1)*
- July '85: **"Holiday"** *(2)*
- Sept '85: **"Angel"** *(5)*
- Sept '85: **"Gambler"** *(4)*
- Dec '85: **"Dress You Up"** *(5)*
- Jan '86: **"Borderline"** *(2)*
- April '86: **"Live To Tell"** *(1)*
- June '86: **"Papa Don't Preach"** *(1)*
- Sept '86: **"True Blue"** *(1)*
- Nov '86: **"Open Your Heart"** *(3)*

● ALBUMS

- 1984: **"Madonna"**
- 1984: **"Like A Virgin"**
- 1986: **"True Blue"**

N O

* NEW ORDER



JULIAN BARTON

● **NEW ORDER:** started life as gloomsome and *very* cult group **Joy Division** until their lead singer, Ian Curtis, hanged himself in 1980. **Bernard "Barney" Sumner** (guitar), **Peter Hook** (bass, synths) and **Steve Morris** (drums) were left to enlist **Gillian Gilbert** (Steve's girlfriend of 10 years) on keyboards and transform themselves into gloomsome synthesised cult group New Order – most famous for one of the biggest-selling 12" singles ever, "Blue Monday". Painfully wary of the "pop star trap", they shun the notion of stardom and all it entails. "We *treasure* being able to walk down the street un-noticed" says Bernard, though he does confess to relishing the pop star life-style (i.e. swanky hotels, seeing the world, attending zwillions of parties etc.). "I *hate* normal life-styles. I *hate* normality. If I ended up like that . . . I'd be *insane*."

◄ New Order, left to right: Steven Morris, Bernard "Barney" Sumner, Gillian Gilbert and Peter Hook.

GARY NUMAN



TIM BAUER

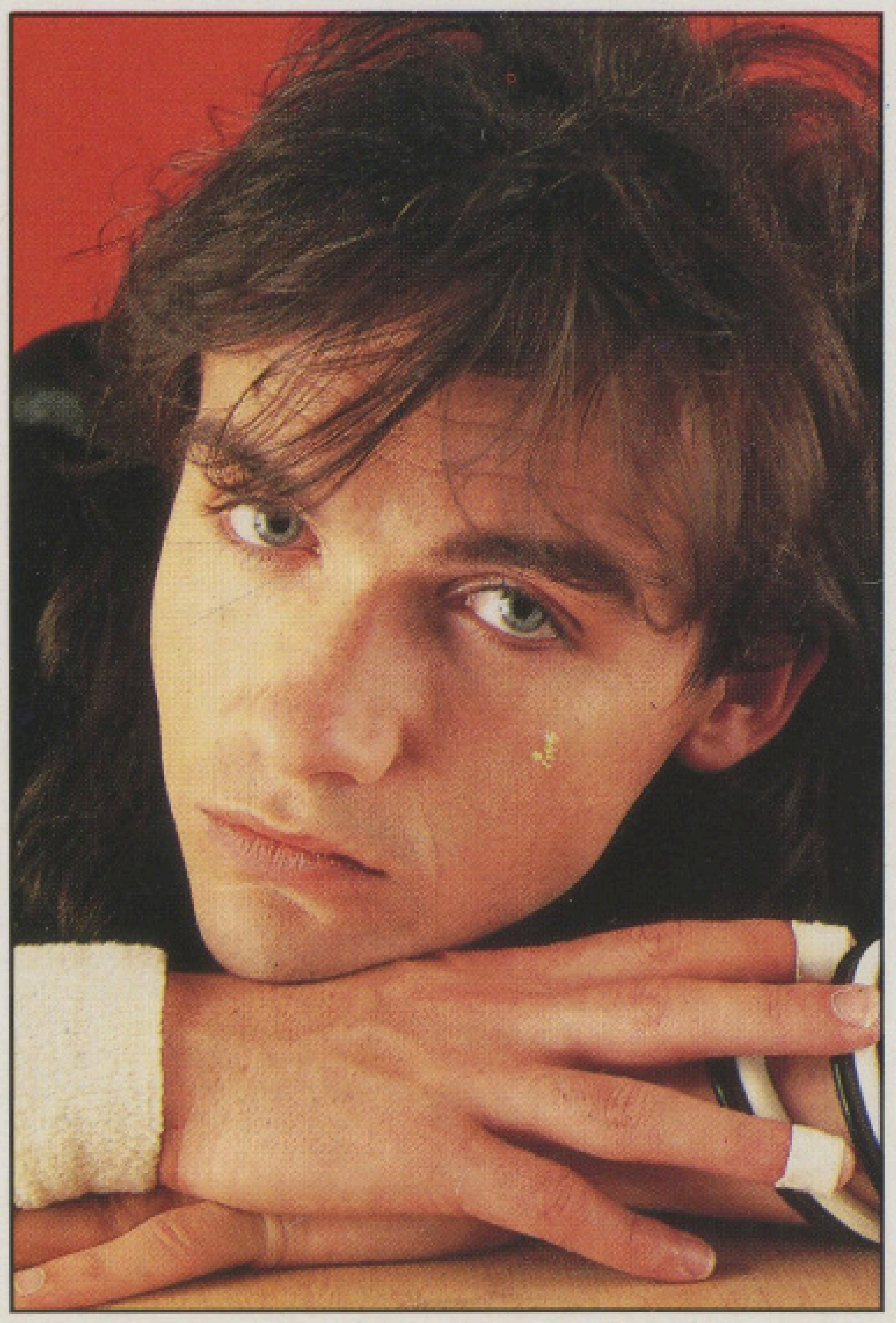
● **GARY NUMAN:** was born 8/3/58 in West London. Described as a "menacing influence" at school, Gary grew up to form a thrashaway punk band, **Tubeway Army**, with his **Uncle Jess**. He had virtually nil success until one day he happened across a synthesiser lying idle in a studio and discovered its potential. He transformed Tubeway Army's sound into a doom-laden **David Bowie**-influenced synth drone with lyrics all about alienation and robots, and ended up with a number one hit, namely "Are Friends Electric?". He dumped the group, went solo, alternated hair colours, bought some eyeliner and wore funereal garb to amass a huge following and a handful of hits in the early '80s. Now his records are less imposing, more funky and hardly ever played on the radio, much to the anger of his intensely loyal fans. In private, he's a qualified pilot who worries about his hair transplant, waxes lyrical about his girlfriend, and loves the royal family almost as much as his own.

OZZY OSBOURNE



● **OZZY OSBOURNE:** born 3/2/48, Ozzy often wonders: "Is all I'm ever going to be asked 'what does a bat taste like?'." Still, he has to admit that the bat-biting incident onstage in America five years ago is one of the highlights of a career which he admits has been "outrageous and eccentric". After singing with doom-laden heavy metal pioneers **Black Sabbath** in the '70s, Ozzy got sacked by them and suffered financial, physical and mental problems before bouncing back, over-the-top as ever, as a solo star. In private, though, he's *fairly* normal – living in London with his manager/wife **Sharon** and their three children (he has two from a previous marriage) and enjoying buying paintings, watching videos of war films, winning teddy bears at the fun fair and sitting in coffee shops. Still, he *did* have all his hair shaved off recently.

P



ANDY CATLIN

OWEN PAUL

● **OWEN PAUL:** was born **Owen McGee** on 1/5/62. Leaving his native Glasgow for the "bright" lights of London seven years ago, Owen released two useless and success-free singles before seeing **Bette Midler** (outrageous American singer/actress) perform the song "My Favourite Waste Of Time" on video. "I thought it was *brilliant!*" he pipes. Two days later he recorded his own version which quite a few people must have thought was brilliant too, because it was a *very* big hit. A football fanatic and one-time apprentice with Celtic, Owen now lives in a one-bedroomed flat in Twickenham – "it's all I need – it's very homely." He shares the place with **Tam**, his beloved American Box Turtle: "He's the only animal I can relate to because he's slow and undemanding."

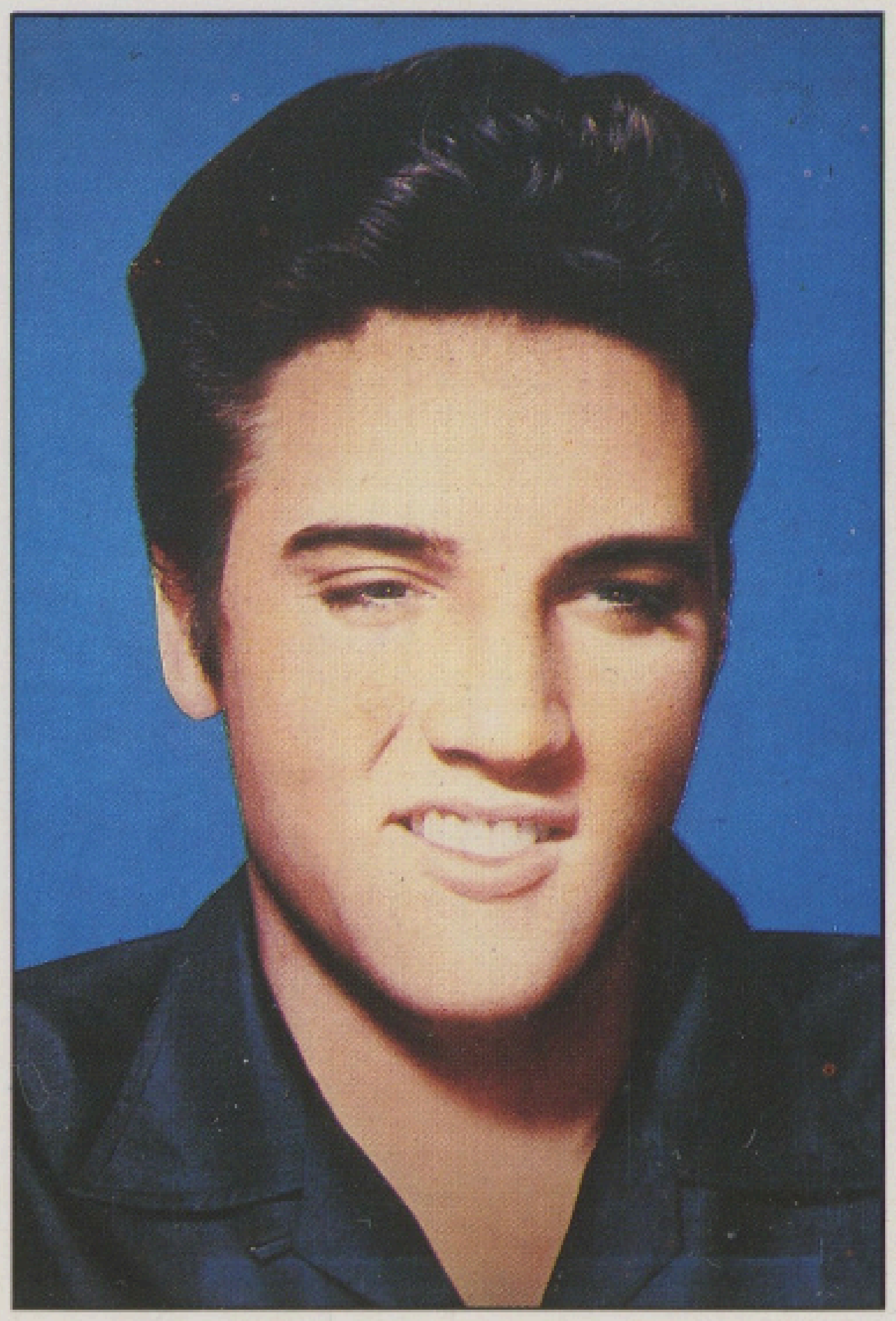
THE POGUES



▲ Shane of The Pogues looking rather more suave than is usual.

● **THE POGUES:** Frantic Irish folk/punk rock group renowned for their excessive swearing and drinking habits and devastatingly wonderful live concerts. Recently snipped to a seven-piece by the departure of **Cait O'Riordan** (Mrs **Elvis Costello**), The Pogues are made up of mad Londoners and mad Irish persons: singer **Shane McGowan**, (who has very few teeth and used to beat himself over the head with a tin tray at concerts but doesn't anymore), **Andrew Rankin**, **Jem Finer**, **James Fearnley**, **Philip Chevron**, **Spider Stacey** and **Terry Woods**. A product of the post-punk "we're going to do what we like" philosophy, they still stick to the traditonal Irish instruments of tin-whistles, accordians, fiddles and hand-drums and claim they've merely "given some spirit to a traditional folk sound". This is a severe understatement.

ELVIS PRESLEY



▲ Elvis back in the '50s before he ate too many cheeseburgers.

● **ELVIS PRESLEY:** To some he was "The King", to others "Elvis The Pelvis". To his mother, **Gladys**, he was **Elvis Aaron Presley**, born 8/1/35, who shot to fame after recording one of the first rock'n'roll records ever, "It's All Right Mama", in 1953. In those days, Elvis' performances were thought to be so steamy that an American TV show decided to film him from the waist up only, to avoid showing that wiggling pelvis. In later years, he was capable of both genius and appalling tackiness: the 30 films he starred in are some of the worst ever made, but his reputation as the greatest rock star ever survived his worst moments and he remains the world's top selling solo artist to this day. He died in 1977 at the age of 42, after years of abusing his body with drugs and junk-food.



RETNA

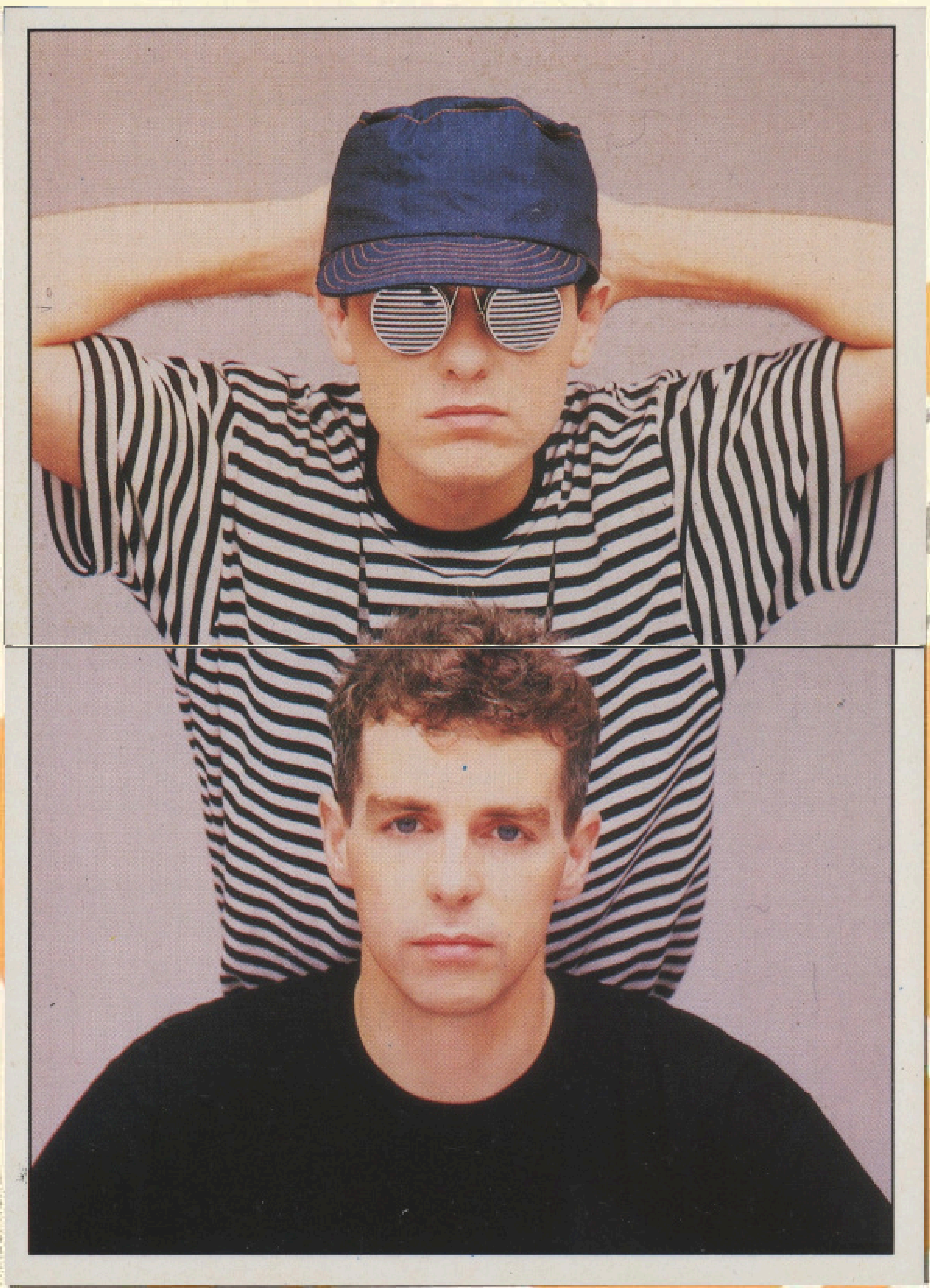
* THE * PRETENDERS

● **THE PRETENDERS:** American ex-journalist **Chrissie Hynde** formed '60s-inspired pop group The Pretenders in 1978 with almost immediate success. Two of their early hits – "Stop Your Sobbing" and "I Go To Sleep" – were actually old songs by **Ray Davies** (singer of '60s "megastars" **The Kinks**), whom Chrissie subsequently moved in with and had a child by. In 1982 and 1983 she lost two of her three original Pretenders in drug-related deaths; in 1984 she married **Jim Kerr** of **Simple Minds** after a whirlwind romance and soon had another baby; finally, last year she relaunched her career with a completely new band. A fervent vegetarian with very strong views, she says her ambition is to close down *McDonalds* hamburger "restaurants" the world over.

◄ The Pretenders, left to right: Robbie McIntosh, Blair Cunningham, Chrissie Hynde, Bernie Worrell, and T.M. Stevens.

● **Background: Record sleeves from the dawn of rock'n'roll when singles were 10 inches wide and spun round at an exceedingly fast 78 RPM.**

P * PET SHOP BOYS *


PARLOPHONE


ANDY CATLIN

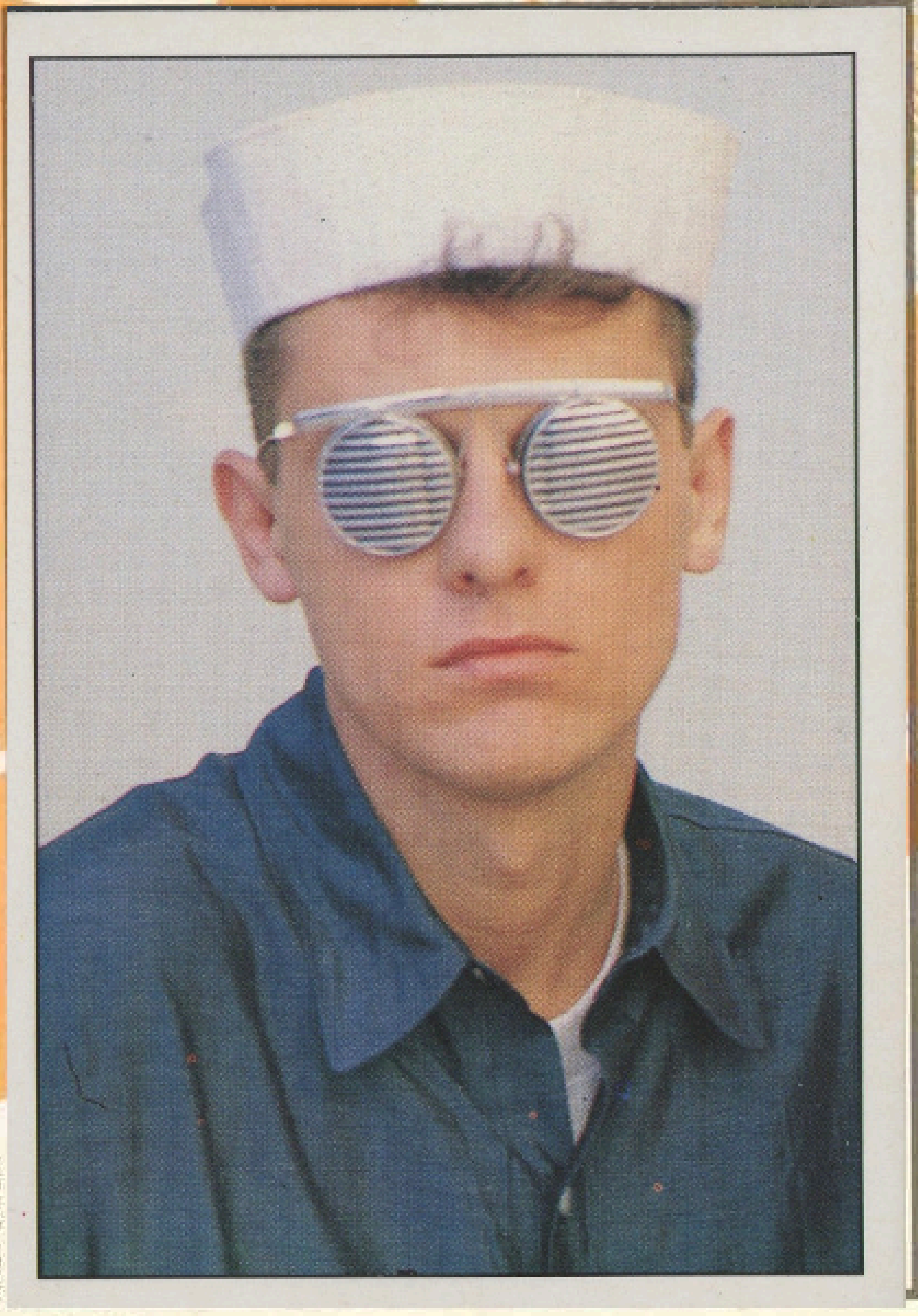
● **PET SHOP BOYS:** The Pet Shop Boys' unlikely story began in an electrical shop where **Neil Tennant** (*Smash Hits* journalist, only previous group **Dust**, a Newcastle hippie folk group around 1970) got chatting to **Chris Lowe** (architecture student, only previous group **One Under The Eight**, a dance group playing old-time favourites like "My Way"). Somehow Chris rescued Neil from his love of people like **Elvis Costello** and **The Jags**, introduced him to disco and particularly to the tacky "dance floor classics" of Italian-American record producer **Bobby O**. The pair then became a group (supposedly pinching the name from a nickname they'd given some friends who worked in an Ealing pet shop) and when Neil was forced to go to New York to interview **Sting** he resolved also to have a cheeseburger with Mr. O. So flattered was Mr O on meeting Neil that, without even hearing them, he agreed to help the Pet Shop Boys make a record. It was called "West End Girls" and it did *quite* well: a hit in France and a club hit on the west coast of America.

Then they got a big record contract, released a single, "Opportunities", and it didn't do very well at all. *Then* they recorded a new version of "West End Girls", which was all very well except that a) their record company didn't like it and b) their manager didn't like it. But, stubborn as ever, Neil and Chris insisted that it came out and, lo and behold, it was number one in most of the solar system. It was speedily followed into the charts by a steady stream of singles and two LPs, "Please" and the disco remix album "Disco", all full of very hummable tunes and ludicrous sound effects.

But despite all this success, the Pet Shop Boys claim they could bow out of the "limelight" any day. "We're not exactly thinking of retiring," explains Neil, "but we've got this plan. We'll stop being the front men and instead we'll change the line-up every year or so – suddenly there'll be four 16-year-old boys and then the next thing you know they'll have been replaced by two 35-year-old **Elaine Paige** types. We'll just write the music and do the nice things like go to bed early."


ANDY CATLIN

▲ Neil Tennant.


ANDY CATLIN

▲ Chris Lowe.

* NEIL

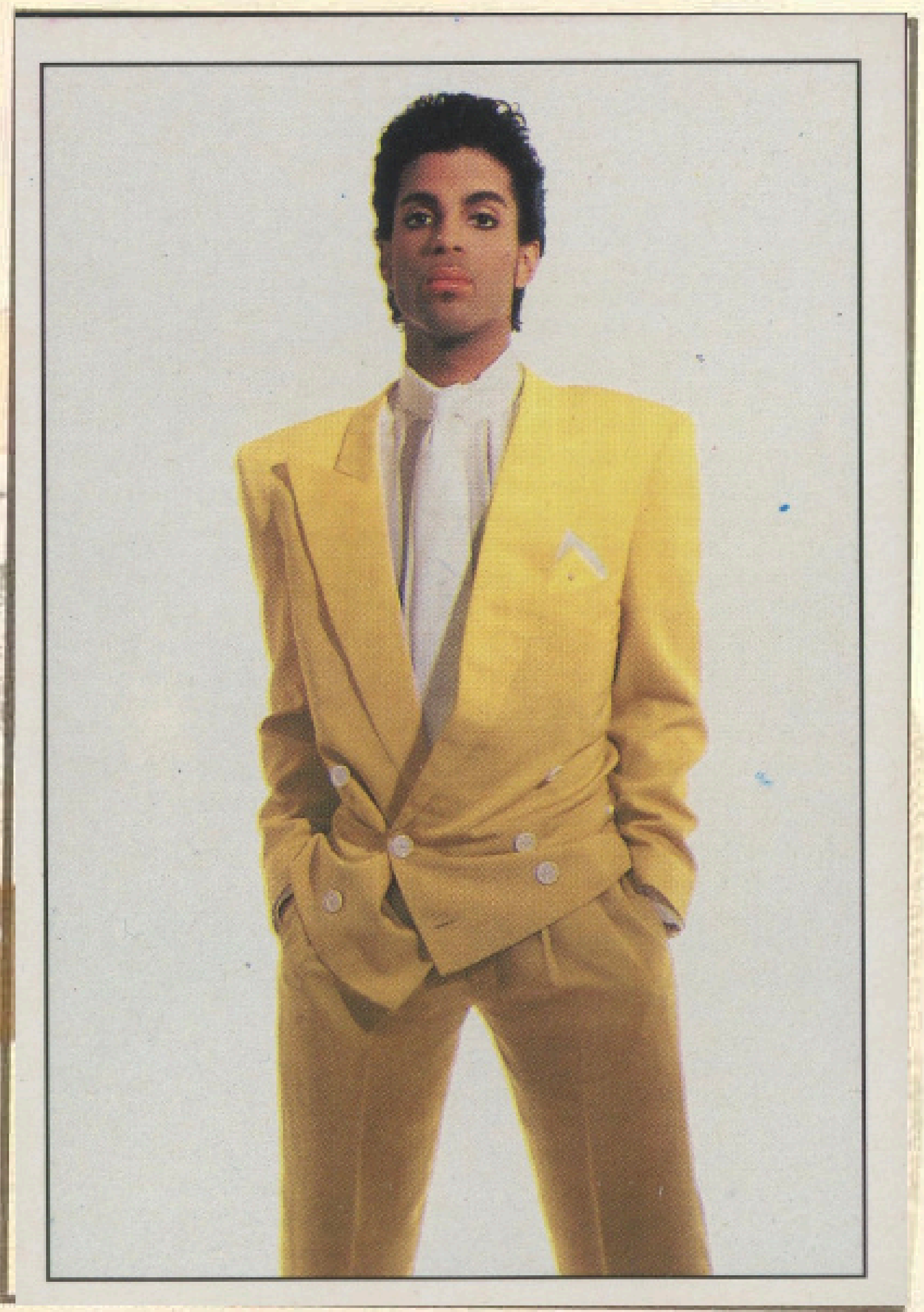
● **NEIL TENNANT**
● He has an Action Man dressed in combat uniform which he keeps on the bookshelf!
● He has singing lessons from **Eve Cohen** (who also taught **Marilyn**). She made him stop singing through his nose and is deeply appalled by how loud the drums are on all Pet Shop Boys records!
● His father works for a Swedish rubber company!
● **Su Pollard** used to work for Neil's Uncle Dick as a shorthand typist – "she always wore the biggest earrings and the shortest skirts you've ever seen!"
● He used to work as British editor of *Marvel Comics* (anglicising spelling and telling artists which naughty bits to cover up) and as an editor of books on cooking, sewing and other cry-baby subjects!
● He loves pop stars when they "go down the slippery slope" e.g. "I didn't like **Adam Ant** until he went down the dumper, then I developed a kind of pathetic devotion to him."!

* CHRIS

● **CHRIS LOWE:**
● Chris once went pony-trekking in Wales!
● He goes to fitness classes on Saturday mornings!
● He's terrified of being burgled!
● His grandfather was in a "comedy jazz group" called **The Nitwits** – he played the trombone, wore a wig, and had a big gout bandage over his foot that people used to trip over!
● He once said "I used to pretend **Tchaikovsky** could compose through me, and it worked!"
● He can be a bit grumpy!
● He once designed a staircase in Milton Keynes!

● Background: A "glamorous" rock'n'roll garter, supposedly the "latest fashion" in 1960 (except it wasn't) . . .

PRINCE



WEA

● **PRINCE**
● **Prince Rogers Nelson** was born on 7/6/58 In Minneapolis.
● His mother **Mattie** was a retired singer; his father **John** was a plaster moulder by day and the leader of **The Prince Rogers Band** by night – the two of them called Prince **Skipper**.
● As well as being bonkers about music, Prince was also mad keen on basketball.
● His first band, when he was about 13, was called **Grand Central** – the next one was called **Champagne**.
● He became a star first in America then in Britain with a series of brilliantly odd albums mixing funk, soul and rock songs, often with extemely risqué lyrics.
● He's also worked with a series of spin-off artists – **The Time**, **Sheila E**, **Vanity 6**, **Appolonia 6**, **The Family**, **Mazarati** – all of which he has been involved in to some extent. (The Time were originally a group called **Flyte Tyme** whom he lured away from their singer **Alexander O'Neal** (now a huge soul star) and included the famous production team **Jam & Lewis** and solo artists **Morris Day** and **Jesse Johnson**, the latter of whom now says "Prince . . . that guy's the *worst*.")
● He's also written songs for other people like **Sheena Easton** and, most famously, **The Bangles**' "Manic Monday".
● In the early '80s he decided he was never going to give another interview and though he's relented a couple of times, for the most part he's been extemely reclusive since.
● The British press have slagged him off horribly ever since he turned up at The BPI Awards in 1985 with a huge bodyguard and accepted his awards with little more than a "thanks be to God". He also refused to attend the "We Are The World" recording – he went to a disco down the road instead – and wouldn't appear at Live Aid, though he's rumoured to have sent an unusable video of himself naked. He did, however, give a song to the "USA For Africa" LP.
● He's made two films – the semi-autobiographical *Purple Rain* (he is supposedly obsessed with the colour purple) and the less successful black-and-white farce *Under The Cherry Moon*.
● In 1985 he announced his retirement from live performances forever, explaining that he was going "to look for the ladder", whatever *that* meant. Months later he started playing live again.
● Prince is *strange* . . .

PSYCHEDELIC FURS



▲ Richard Butler of the Psychedelic Furs.

● **PSYCHEDELIC FURS:** are a corking London cult group formed by lead singer **Richard Butler** in 1979 after he happened upon a **Sex Pistols** concert – "I realised it was possible for me to be in a band as well, I didn't have to be a great musician or anything." Drafting in his brother **Tim** and friend **John Ashton**, they played rather badly wherever they could with Richard making up the words as he went along, "mostly about religion, anger and sadness." Joined by various musicians who come and go as is Richard's wish – "this is a *business*, after all" – they became a "proper, serious" group for three years and then moved to America permanently: "There's an atmosphere there which makes you feel you can do *anything*." Their biggest hit to date has been the 1986 version of a 1981 tune, "Pretty In Pink" – the title of which was nicked for a rather good and successful American "teenage-lurve" film. Richard now lives in a swank-apartment in New York, is "in love" with his girlfriend of four years, suffers from unexplainable hallucinations (he sees planes and people that don't exist) and fiddles constantly with a velvet ball filled with sand (i.e. he's a bit mad).

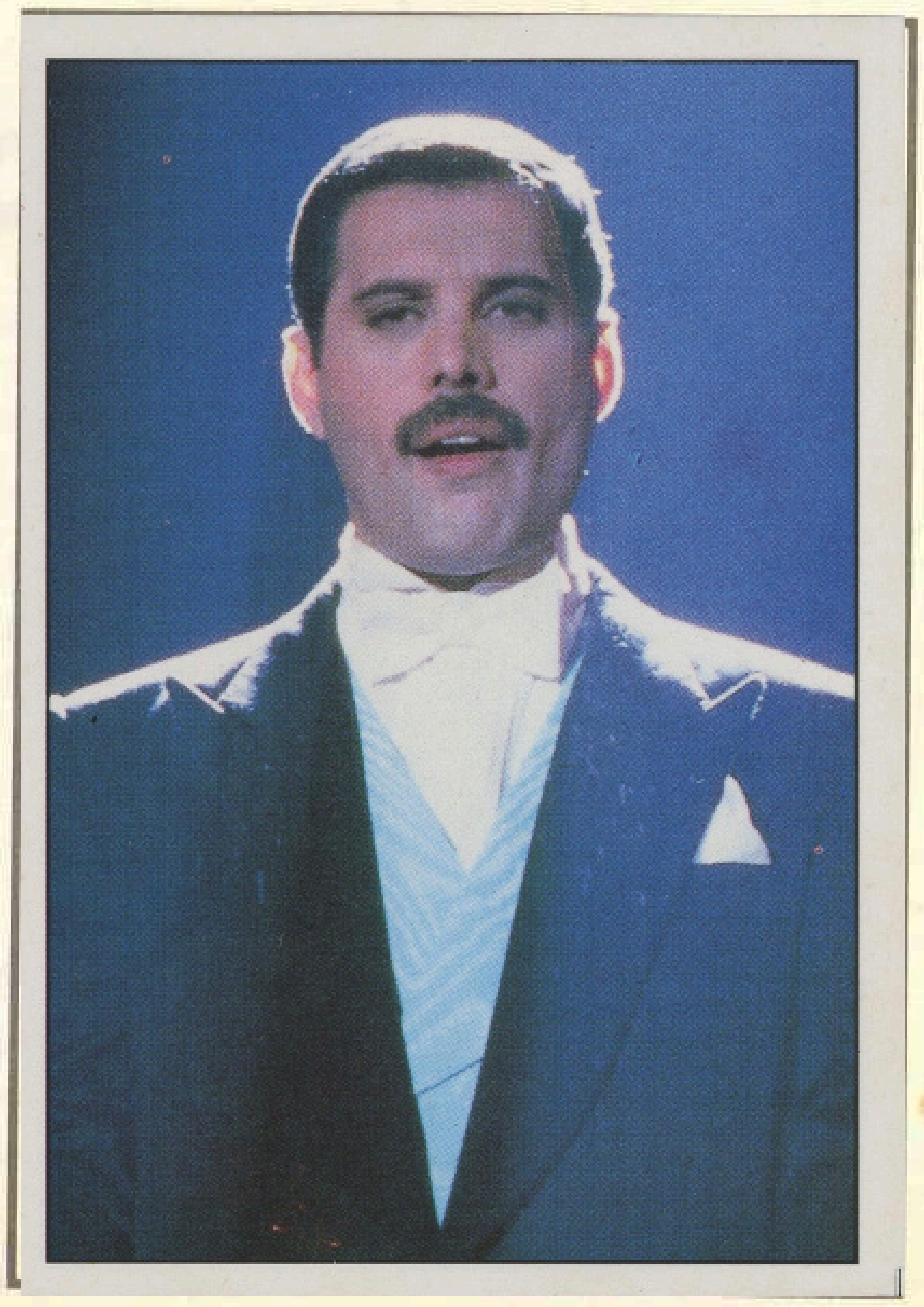
QUEEN



CAROL HAYES ASSOCIATES

▲ Queen, left to right: Roger Taylor, Freddie Mercury, Brian May and John Deacon.

● **QUEEN:** They have a reputation for being the most successful stadium rock group in the world, and make more money than practically every other pop group in existence. Formed in 1971, their name was thought up by ex-art student and lead singer **Freddie Mercury**; the other three members are **Roger Taylor** (an ex-bioogy student, bass), **John Deacon** (an ex-electronics student, drums) and **Brian May** (an ex-astrology student, guitarist). Their 1974 single "Seven Seas Of Rhye" turned them into massive pop stars and in 1975 they made the first ever commercial video for their completely over-the-top operatic single, "Bohemian Rhapsody". These days, since the release of "Radio Ga Ga", they've toned down the heavy metal guitar edge that first made them popular in favour of hugely popular anthems and ballads. To guitar hero Brian May, who built his first guitar out of an orange box (true!), this has been a bit of a disappointment: "It's frustrating in a way, but I've come to regard it as a fact of life."

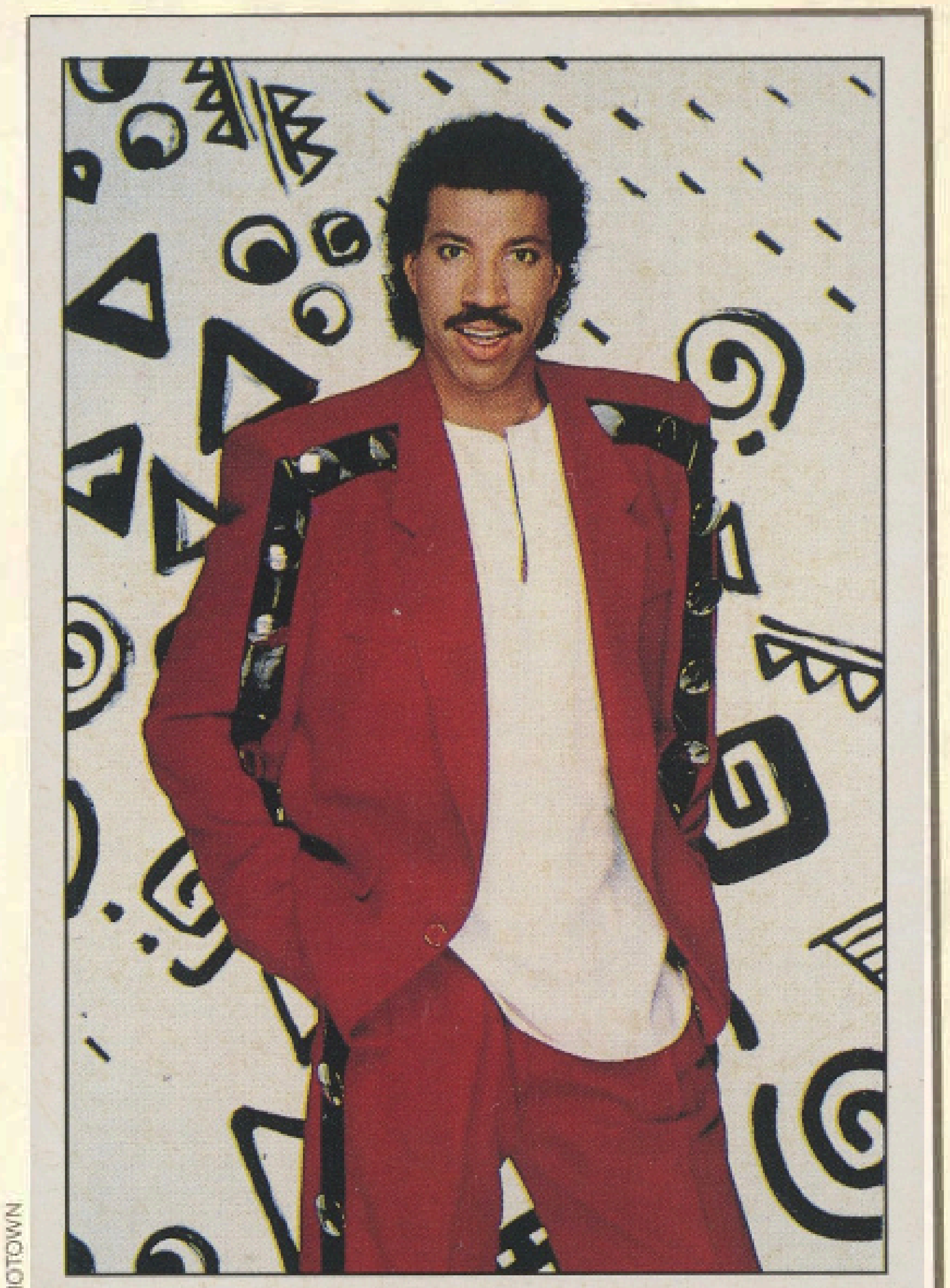


ALPHA

● **FREDDIE MERCURY**
● His real name is **Frederick Bulsara**, and he was born in Zanzibar on 5/9/46.
● In 1973 he recorded a song under the pseudonym of **Larry Lurex**. It didn't sell very many copies.
● At Queen's early concerts he used to cook popcorn and serve it to members of the audience.
● He used to run a stall in Kensington Market selling horrible purple flared trousers.
● Roger Taylor says: "He's really shy. He feels that he's not very good at doing interviews."

R

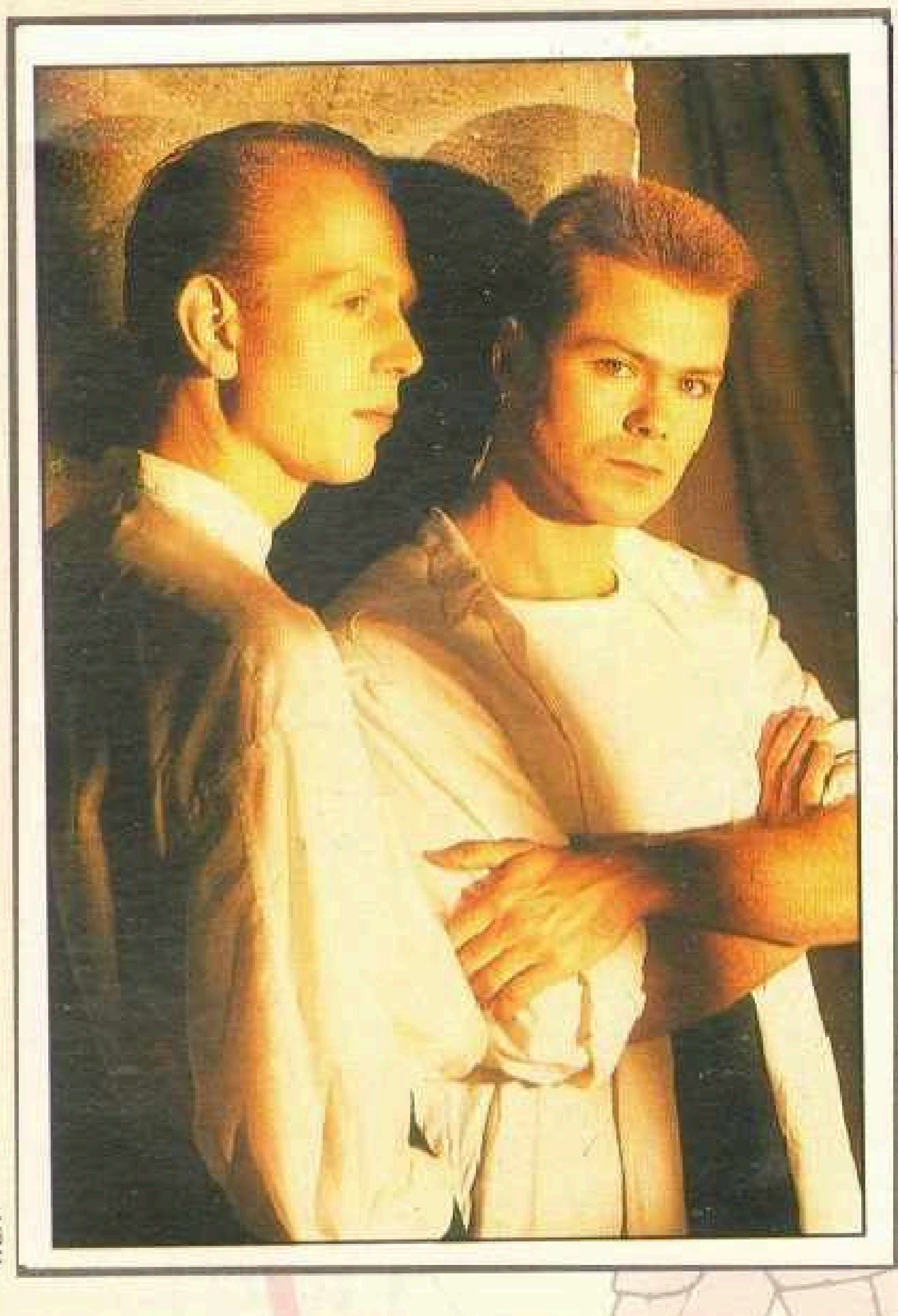
LIONEL RICHIE



MOTOWN

● **LIONEL RICHIE:** To some he's the greatest black songwriter of the 1980s, to others he's a bit of an old smoothie. Either way he's become one of the biggest earning acts ever on America's top soul label, Motown – his second LP. "Can't Slow Down", has now sold well over 15 million copies. Lionel formed **The Commodores** in his home town of Tuskgee, Alabama with fellow college students, and though they were one of the most successful black groups of the '70s, it's Lionel's own singles, like "Dancing On The Ceiling", "Hello", "Penny Lover" and "Running With the Night" that have made him the massive star that he is today. Richie is *also* the bloke who composed the **USA For Africa** anthem "We Are The World" with **Michael Jackson**.

RED BOX



WEA

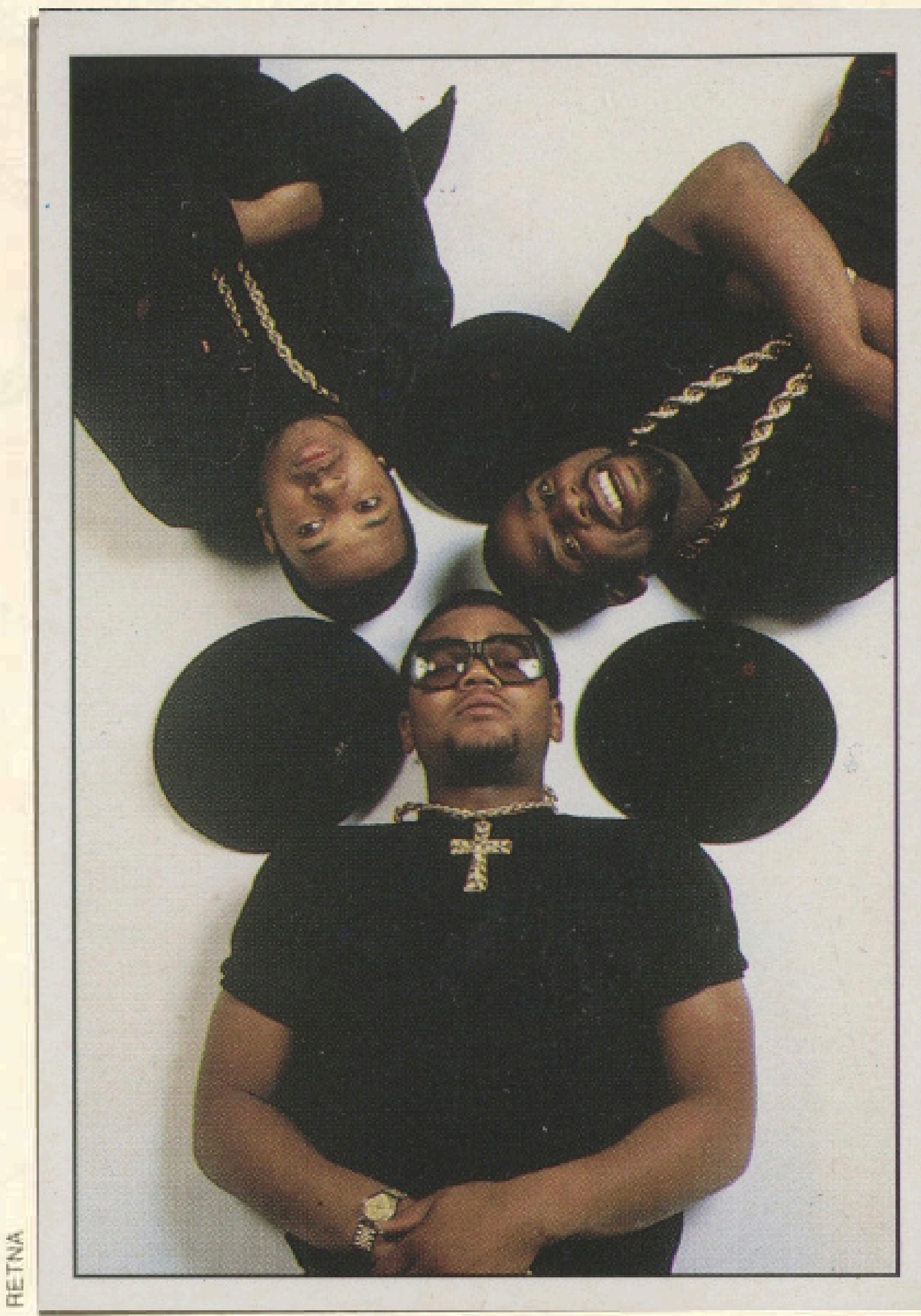
● **RED BOX: Julian Close** and **Simon Toulson Clarke** first met nine years ago, when they were students in London. For some reason they were cajoled into "performing" with each other for half an hour on stage in front of a jeering audience (they played a couple of **Beatles** tunes and earned £20 in the process). The pair went on to have a hit with the infernally catchy, red-indian influenced "Lean On Me" and made a video which, oddly, involved the use of sign language. A 10 month gap ensued while they made their first LP. and everyone was ready to call Red Box one-hit-wonders until they popped up again with the even catchier "For America" at the end of 1986. "It's quite a negative look at America," explains Simon. "I dare say President Reagan won't be humming it when he rocks good old Nancy to sleep in the evening."

● Simon likes sailing!

● Julian describes surfing as his "little avenue of pleasure"!

◄ **Red Box: Julian Close (left) and Simon Toulson Clarke.**

*RUN DMC



RETNA

▲ **Run DMC, clockwise from bottom: Daryl McDaniels, Run and Jam Master Jay.**

● **RUN DMC:** are two rappers, **Joseph Simmonds** (better known as **Run**) and his companion **Daryl McDaniels (DMC)**, who have known each other since they were seven and grew up together in the same area of New York, Queens Hollis. "We got into rapping on the street corners," claims Run, but they have progressed to make the biggest selling rap album of all time, "Raising Hell". The group were formed in 1982, when they were joined by **Jam Master Jay**, the DJ and scratcher (i.e. the bloke who does the backing tracks). This cocky and much-imitated group are as famous for their clothes as for their boasting and energetic rapping (which they sometimes mix with heavy metal) – they all wear a distinctive uniform of *Adidas* clothes and trainers (no laces), *Kangol* hats and massive solid gold chains and knuckle-dusters. As they say, "Run DMC set the trend, no matter what *nobody* says."

THE ROLLING STONES



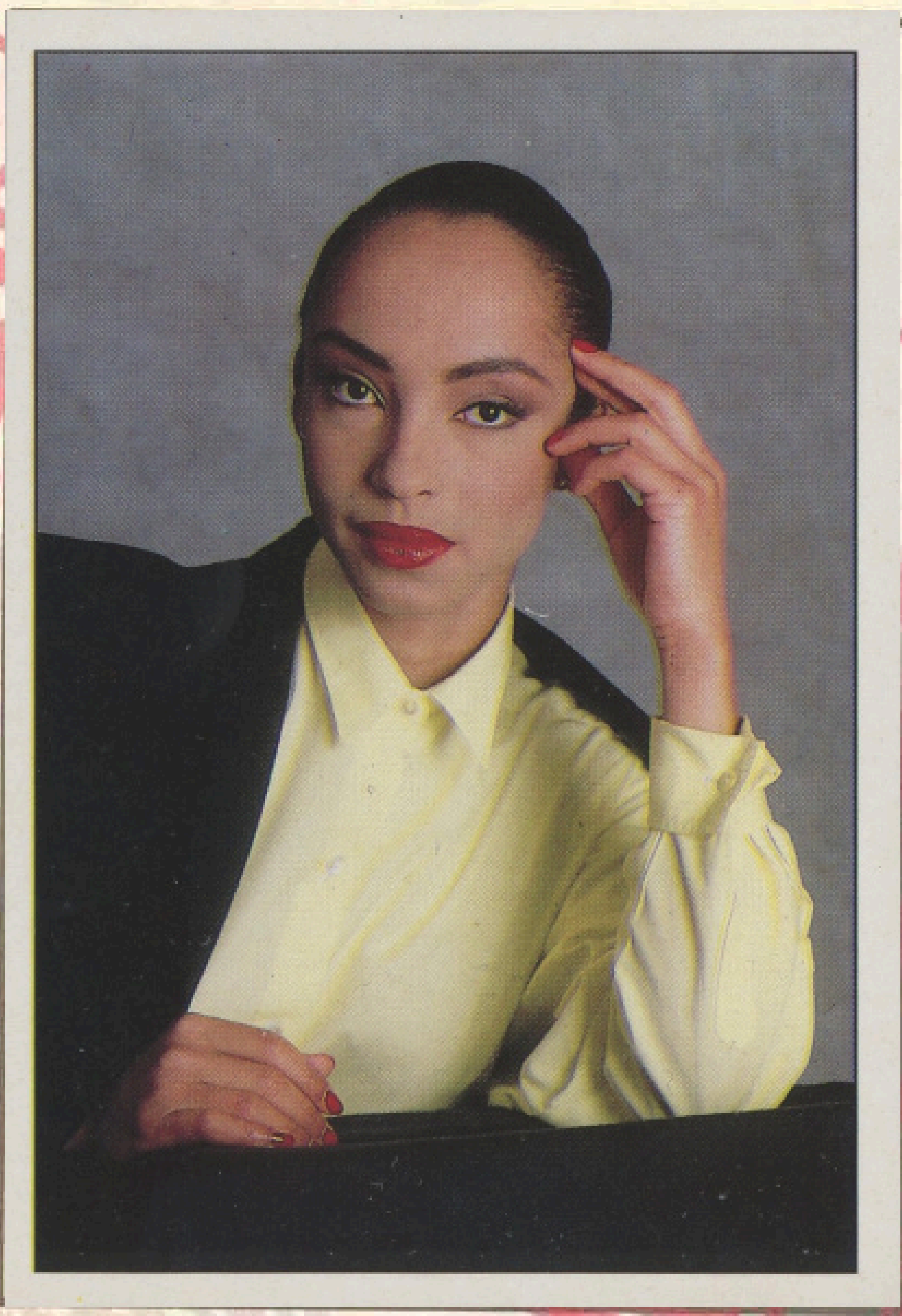
RETNA

▲ **The Rolling Stones as they are today, left to right: Ron Wood, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman.**

● **THE ROLLING STONES:** One of the most influential rock groups of all time, they started their career in 1963 with their first hit "It's All Over Now", following up with classics like "Jumping Jack Flash", "Honky Tonk Woman" and "Satisfaction". But while their biggest rivals, **The Beatles**, had a "goody-goody" image, The Rolling Stones seemed to attract scandal: for instance when original guitarist **Brian Jones** was found dead in his swimming pool in 1969. "The Rolling Stones do not tend to be associated with happy moments," recalls singer **Mick Jagger**. "It was like kicking people in the teeth all the time and just being happy that you survived." Last year the group released their 25th LP; it was not a great success and rumours abound that The "Stones" are about to call it a day . . .

S

* SADE *



RETNA

● **SADE:** born 16/1/60 as **Helen Folasade Adu**, Sade grew up in Clacton-On-Sea where she did a "horrible" paper round, an equally nasty meat round for her butcher stepfather, made a snowman out of a *Fairy Liquid* bottle and sticky tape (as directed by *Blue Peter*) and fancied **David Essex**. She got involved in fashion design, started hanging about with people like **Spandau Ballet**, became backing singer for a group called **Pride** (she failed the audition as lead singer!), formed her own band, and found that literally millions of people wanted to buy her "cool", sophisticated jazz/pop. She has a "remarkably ugly" cat called Cylinders which her mum looks after, finds hoovering "a bit complicated and taxing", collects tea-towels and finds a new scandalous rumour about herself every time she picks up a "news" paper. "Once I died of a heroin overdose," she observes. "I wonder if I'll die again?"

THE SEX PISTOLS



▲ The Sex Pistols, left to right: Paul Cook, Sid Vicious, Johnny Rotten and Steve Jones.

● **THE SEX PISTOLS:** Their first shambolic concert was on November 16th 1975 but it wasn't until a year later that they released their first single, "Anarchy In The UK", which despite being banned from radio play became an instant success after group members used rude language during a live TV interview. "Four Letter Punk Group In TV Storm!!" screamed the "news"papers, and thus their reputation as the most notorious punk rock group in the universe was born. At the time they consisted of **Glen Matlock** (bass), **Johnny Rotten** ("singing"), **Steve Jones** (guitar) and **Paul Cook** (drums), but in 1976 Glen was kicked out for wanting to be in "a nice band". His replacement was **Sid Vicious**. After a brief, chaotic career, John disbanded the group in 1978, changed his surname back to its original **Lydon**, formed **P.I.L. – Public Image Limited** – and now lives in luxury in Los Angeles with his wife **Nora**. He still describes himself as "the instigator of punk". Sid Vicious met a sadder end – he became a pathetic heroin addict and committed suicide after murdering his girlfriend **Nancy**, "inspiring" the recent film *Sid'n'Nancy*.

● **The Sex Pistols' achievements included:**

● Calling **The Queen** "a moron" in the song "God Save The Queen".

● Getting a reputation for vomiting at concerts, in record company buildings and at airports.

● Getting called "deplorable" in the House of Commons.

● Having their album, "Never Mind The Bollocks . . . Here's The Sex Pistols", banned from loads of record shops.

● Making a film with Great Train Robber **Ronnie Biggs** in it.

● Making practically no money out of their career until they won a court case against ex-manager **Malcolm McLaren** in 1986.

FEARGAL SHARKEY



PAUL COX/STILL ROCK

● **FEARGAL SHARKEY:** born in 13/8/58 in Ireland, Feargal won endless talent competitions as a child with his peculiar, warbling style of "singing". Later on, dressed in horrible nylon parkas and disgusting flapaway trousers – "you wore what was available, there wasn't any choice" – he was vocalist with the brilliant but not-very-successful pop/punk group **The Undertones** before going solo in 1983. After two one-off singles – "Never Never" with **Vince Clarke** (as **The Assembly**) and "Listen To Your Father" with **Madness** – he decided to take control of his own career. He starting writing songs, designing his record sleeves, attempting to be fashionable and doing just about everything else pop stars have to do, getting some help along the way from **Dave Stewart** of the **Eurythmics**. The effort paid off with the number one single "A Good Heart", though *that* was written by American singer **Maria McKee**. He has at least one other interest apart from his career – playing with his computer at four in the morning – but admits that "my ultimate goal is to have the words 'written, produced, arranged and directed by Feargal Sharkey' on *everything* I do."



SIGUE SIGUE SPUTNIK

● **SIGUE SIGUE SPUTNIK:** were the creation of **Tony James**, an ex-member of **Billy Idol**'s punk group, **Generation X**. They describe themselves as "the third generation of rock'n'roll", whatever *that* means, but despite their outrageously silly outfits, towering fright-wigs, epic videos, bitchy comments, constant night-clubbing, occasional violence and attempts to do anything or everything that might shock, it remains – so far – a claim they have not fulfilled. For Sigue Sigue Sputnik – (who are **Ray Mayhew**, bald ex-fashion designer **Martin Degville**, **Chris Kavenagh**, **Neal X** and Tony James) have only managed to make a small dent in the British charts since their first single, "Love Missile F1-11", was a novelty number one hit in March 1986. But as they say themselves, "we're not interested in music, we're into glamour and excitement." They also maintain, not very convincingly, that they are "the best looking rock and roll group in the world".

◄ The Sputniks, left to right: Ray Mayhew, Chris Kavenagh, Martin "frightmask" Degville, Neal X and Tony James.

● Background: Two different ways to look like a bit of a bimbo in 1967. Speeeyew . . .

SIMPLE MINDS



VIRGIN

▲ Simple Minds, left to right: Charlie Burchill, Michael McNeill, Jim Kerr, Mel Gaynor and Derek Forbes.



● **JIM KERR:**
● Was born 9/7/59 in Glasgow.
● Was one of the few people in his class to pass an engineering exam.
● Once got offered a job as a dustbin man – "Luckily at that time there was a lot of interest in the band and we got a deal – otherwise I don't know *what* I'd have done . . ."
● Once had his nose broken by a jealous fan.
● Says that one of his greatest moments was singing with **David Bowie** on **Iggy Pop**'s "Soldier" album.
● Is married to **Chrissie Hynde** of **The Pretenders**, with whom he has a baby daughter.
● Lives – when he's not touring – in a small fishing village near Edinburgh: "I think they say, 'Home is where the heart is'. When I'm at home I like to get back to nature and walk around."
● Doesn't wear anything in bed.

● **SIMPLE MINDS:** Singer **Jim Kerr** and guitarist **Charlie Burchill** lived opposite each other in Glasgow's Toryglen district, grew up together and went to the same schools. Originally in a schoolboy punk group called **Johnny & The Self Abusers**, they formed Simple Minds in 1978 and have been the creative force behind the group ever since. Their first couple of LPs were gloomy, derivative and ignored; however after hitch-hiking round Europe together they found the inspiration for their third, "Empires And Dance", a collection of restless Euro-disco travelogues which saw the start of their success. More recently, Jim has been heavily influenced by his friend **Bono** of **U2**, who's had a great effect on the band's direction: "I think we share a vision and a clumsiness as well," says Jim, "and the same kind of blood."
● Charlie Burchill once had "this wild idea of climbing the Himalayas".
● Drummer **Mel Gaynor** was once a session musician with **The Nolans**.
● Keyboards player **Michael MacNeill** used to be in an accordian group with his brother **Danny** when he was nine.
● Bass player **Derek Forbes** has written a children's book called *The Adventures Of Sally And The Moonpeople*.

SIMPLY RED



WEA

▲ Simply Red, left to right: Fritz McIntyre, Chris Joyce, Sylvan Richardson, Tim Kellet, Tony Bowers and, in front, Mick Hucknall.

● **SIMPLY RED:** namely **Mick Hucknall, Tim Kellet, Sylvan Richardson, Chris Joyce, Tony Bowers** and **Fritz McIntyre** – a Manchester up-beat soul band formed in 1980. Simply Red's spiralling success is mainly due to the magnificent crooning of the highly opinionated Mick Hucknall ("Margaret Thatcher has done more damage to this country than World War II", etc. etc.) and their ecstatic live performances. Relatively unknown until their cover-version of **The Valentine Brothers**' soul classic "Money's Too Tight (To Mention)" and their superb first LP "Picture Book" in 1985, they went on to become staggeringly successful in Europe and virtually ignored in Britain until the swoonsome "Holding Back The Years" mooned its way to number one in the summer of 1986. Much miffed by Britain's "attitude" to his group, Mick grumbles "I don't know *what's* wrong with this place – you think, I was *born* here – why has Britain been last? Well, I just don't flamin' care."

SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES



▲ Siouxsie & The Banshees, left to right: Steve Severin, Siouxsie, Budgie and John Carruthers.

● **SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES:** is the one group to have come out of the punk era which has survived more or less intact. Their debut was in notorious punk haven the *100 Club* in 1976, when they "played" a dreadful, rambling version of "The Lord's Prayer" which went *on* and *on* and *on* (they couldn't work out how to stop). 11 years later The Banshees are still recording, although over the years their output, while remaining haunting, has become more psychedelic, even hippie-ish. The only consistent members of the group have been the serpentine and clone-inspiring singer, **Siouxsie Sue,** and her bass-playing side-kick, **Steve Severin**. The current line-up includes drummer **Budgie** (with whom Siouxsie formed **The Creatures**) and guitarist **John Carruthers**, who replaced the **Cure**'s **Robert Smith** – who, incidentally, calls Siouxsie "the witch". The group are still touring, despite Siouxsie's past problems with her voice, and still have an army of black-clad devotees.

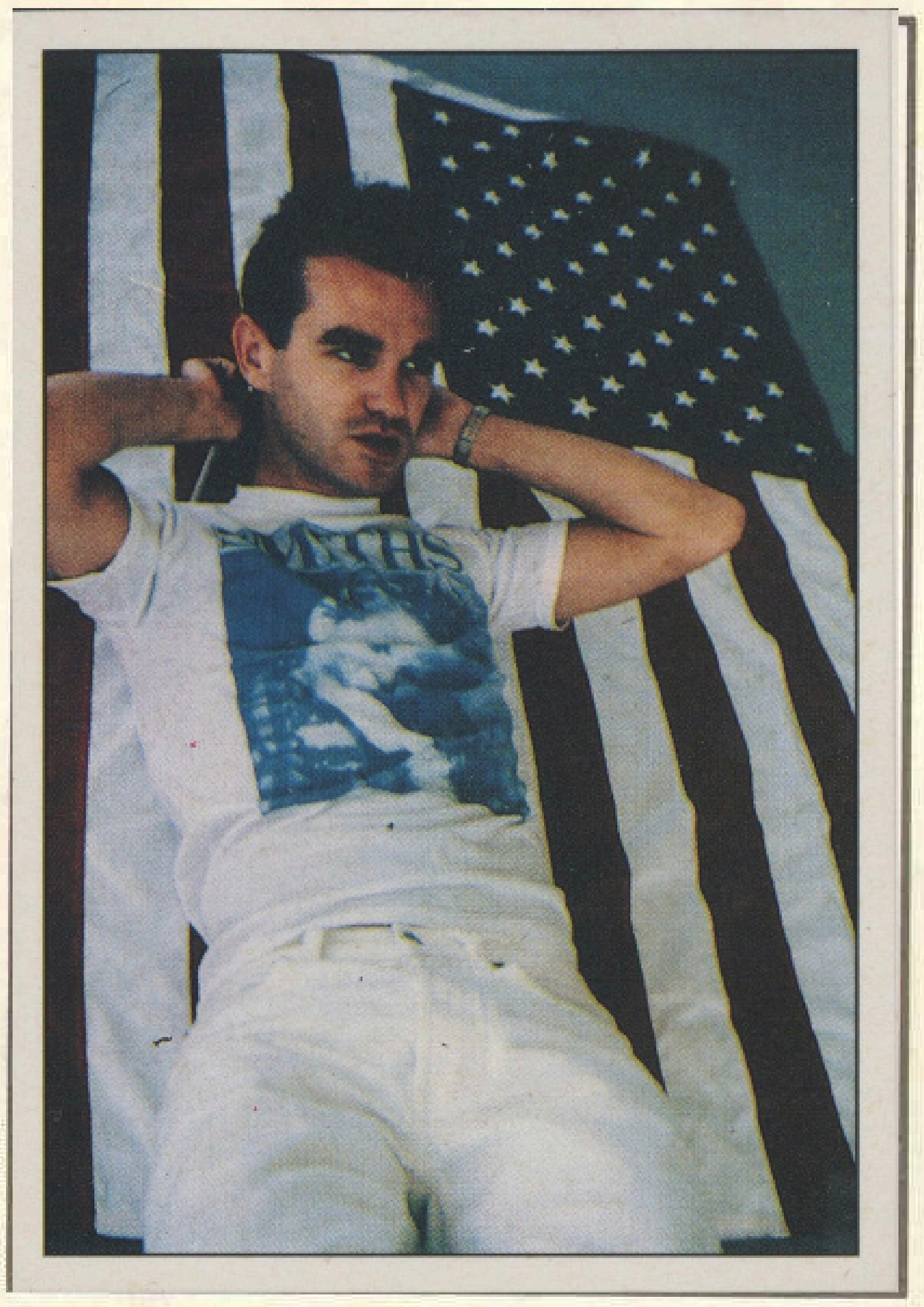
● **Background: Two different ways to look a bit of a bimbo in 1969, when it was "cool" to go on "draughty demos" so you needed a nice coat (except there weren't any) . . .**

THE SMITHS



▲ The Smiths, left to right: Mike Joyce, Morrissey, Craig Gannon (who's now left), Johnny Marr and Andy Rourke.

● **THE SMITHS: Stephen Patrick Morrissey** (born 22/5/59) was a bedroom recluse who'd written two books, one about American glam-punk group **The New York Dolls** (whose British fan club he ran), the other about his idol, actor **James Dean**. He supposedly met guitarist **Johnny Marr** (whose name, in French, means something quite rude) in September 1982, when the latter, intrigued by the tales he had heard of this weird but very creative hermit, went round to Morrissey's house and pressed his nose against the window, leaving an irritatingly large chocolate stain. They started writing songs together, found drummer **Mike Joyce** and bassist **Andy Rourke**, and The Smiths were, as they say, born. Their first single, "Hand In Glove", was a small success, the second, the dazzling "This Charming Man", was a hit and Morrissey soon became famous for the gladioli he flounced around with on stage and the luxuriant foliage which trailed from his back pocket ("like a gay gardener," commented an unimpressed **Ozzy Osbourne**), for his strange, flailing "dancing", for the hearing aid he donned in imitation of '50s singing star **Johnny Ray** and for the oversized women's shirts he draped about his scrawny body. Mainly, though, he was admired for his lonely, literate, poetic lyrics which cemented a huge, devoted and rather earnest following, although Johnny Marr is a greatly admired "guitar hero" too. (In 1985 The Smiths gained a new guitarist, **Craig Gannon** (ex-**Aztec Camera**), with Andy leaving briefly and then rejoining; then in December 1986 Craig quit and the group are now back to their original four members.) Meanwhile over the years Morrissey has become notorious for speaking out against the royal family (The Smiths' third LP was called "The Queen Is Dead"), meat eaters (their second was called "Meat Is Murder"), **Band Aid** and most other pop music with undiluted venom.



ROUGH TRADE

● **Morrissey has said:**
● "Band Aid is the undiscussable."
● "I have a daily intake of yoghurt and bread."
● "It's only because I really care about popular music that I feel this Samaritanesque duty to go out and nail those that need to be nailed."
● "Most of the people I have ever met have somebody who they can fall back into their arms. When I fall back I hit concrete."
● "I don't understand **Phil Collins** and I don't suppose I ever will."
● "We were asked to support **The Police**. How could we? We are *far* more important than The Police."
● "James Dean, even though he was making enormous strides forward with his craft, was still incredibly miserable and obviously doomed. Which is exactly the quality **Oscar Wilde** had, that kind of mystical knowledge that there is something incredibly black around the corner. People who feel that way are quite special and always end up in a mangled mess."

SPANDAU BALLET



▲ The Spands wearing tea-towels in 1981 at the time of "To Cut A Long Story Short".



DENIS O'REGAN

▲ The Spands looking rather more swanky in 1985, just before they disappeared for a year of legal wrangling.



CBS

▲ The Spands now, left to right: John Keeble, Martin Kemp, Tony Hadley, Gary Kemp, Steve Norman and some bits of wire.

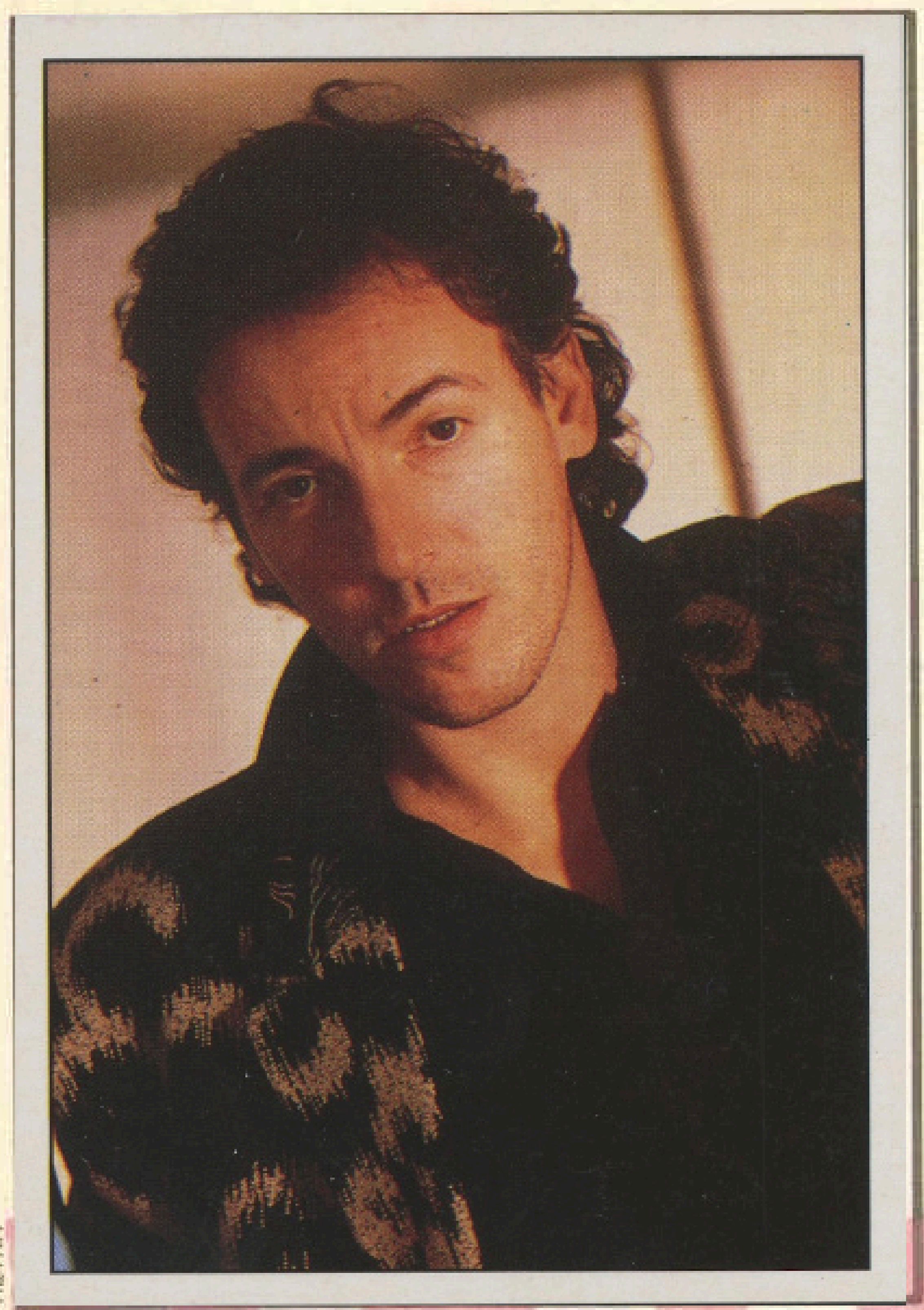
● **SPANDAU BALLET:** formed in 1979 by **Gary Kemp** (guitar), his brother **Martin** (bass), **Tony Hadley** (vocals), **Steve Norman** (sax, guitar) and **John Keeble** (drums) after a previous band **The Makers** (without Martin) had folded. They launched themselves through a clever series of invitation-only concerts in bizarre new-romantic venues in 1979, dressing up in kilts and what looked like tablecloths and playing music which they claimed was a cross between soul and European electronic disco. Thanks to this campaign their first single, "To Cut a Long Story Short", was an immediate hit. For most of their second LP, "Diamond", they switched to more uptempo funk and rap then with their third, "True", started making very conventional pop full of unbelievably hummable tunes and suddenly found themselves with their first number one, the weepsome title track. Their fourth album, "Parade", did nearly as well, but there *were* a couple of hiccups. Firstly, being one of "five working class lads from North London who enjoy every second of what we do and have a good laugh at the same time" was not quite enough for Gary Kemp – he was concerned to do something rather more constructive and so threw his moral and actual support behind the Labour Party's Red Wedge campaign. Secondly, the group fell out badly with their record company over their lack of success in America (both sides blaming each other) and spent ages squabbling over their contract in court. They eventually re-emerged with a new record company at the end of last year and after the rather wobbly chart performance of "Everybody Fight For Themselves" flew right back into the top ten with the swoonaway "Through The Barricades".

S

STATUS QUO

SHAKIN' STEVENS

* BRUCE * SPRINGSTEEN



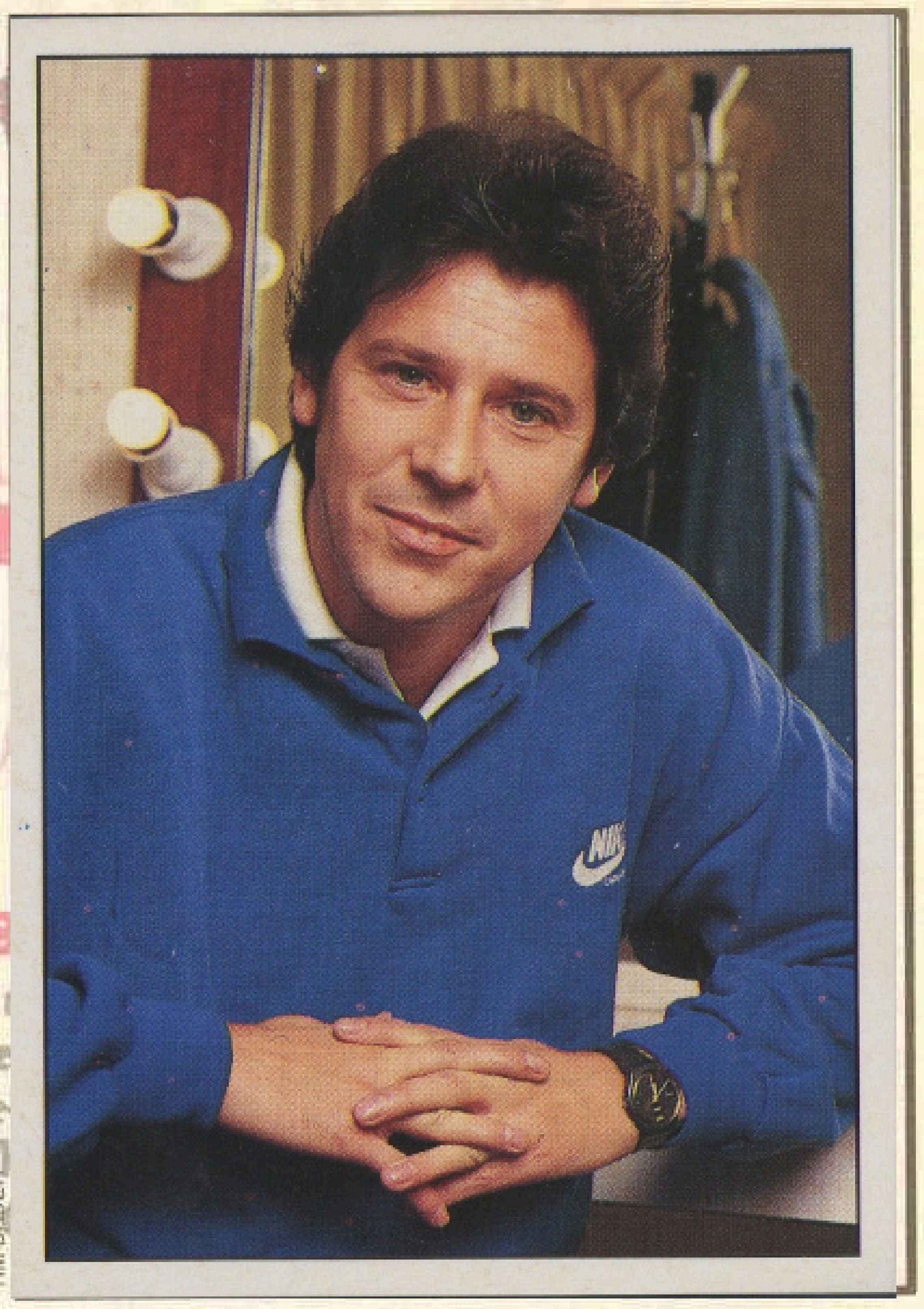
RETNA

● **BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN:** is, as they say, New Jersey's most famous son. He was born there on 23/9/49, and the American state has gone to the extraordinary lengths of adopting one of his songs as their anthem. "The Boss", as he is known, inspires worshipful devotion from zwilbillions of fans who rave about his live performances (marathon affairs involving hours of Bruce sweating and jumping around), his songs (about rock and roll, cars and life in small-town America) and Bruce himself (ever-clad in jeans with muscles exposed). He has made only eight albums in 13 years – the last of these a boxed set of five live albums, which sold out within hours of being released in America and inspired so-called "Bruce Days" on radio stations all over the country. Reclusive in his private life, Bruce is a man of few words, the most famous eight of which are "I'm just a prisoner of rock and roll . . ."



▲ Status Quo: Rick Parfitt (left) and Francis Rossi.

● **STATUS QUO:** basically consists of **Rick Parfitt** (real name Richard Harrison) and **Francis Rossi** (real name Francis Rossi), who had their first hit back in 1968 when they were "pop stars like **A-ha** for about ten minutes". Ever since then they've been a deeply unfashionable, hugely popular band churning out relentless and remarkably similar "boogie" songs. They "retired" from live work in 1984, reformed for Live Aid and then returned to full working order in 1986 after settling legal disputes which resulted in the sacking of longterm bass player **Alan Lancaster**. Now they're going again they've no intention of stopping: "We've promised ourselves we'll keep on going for five more years, until 1991 . . ."



TIM BAUER

● **SHAKIN' STEVENS:**

● He was born **Michael Barrett** in Cardiff on 4/3/48 and is the youngest of 11 children.
● In the early '70s he led a rock'n'roll group called **Shakin' Stevens & The Sunsets**.
● He once played **Elvis Presley** in the stage musical *Elvis*.
● He now holds the UK record for consecutive Top 20 hits.
● He's married and has three children.
● He claims he's "never been a party person".
● He claims he's "never been a lift person". (?)
● He once said: "My second hit was a flop."
● He doesn't like being interviewed.



THE STRANGLERS



ROLAND HYAMS PUBLICITY

▲ The Stranglers, left to right: Hugh Cornwell, Jet Black, Jean-Jacques Burnel and Dave Greenfield.

● **THE STRANGLERS: Jean-Jacques Burnel** (twangy bass), **Hugh Cornwall** (guitar, vocals), **Dave Greenfield** (keyboards) and drummer **Jet Black** (real name **Brian Duffy**) were never really *true* punk rockers (they were too old and they could actually play their instruments), but were labelled as such when they released their dark and menacing first album, "Rattus Norvegicus", in 1977. They posed as intellectuals, but instead gained the image of being thoroughly nasty – not just from their brooding songs and the fact that they constantly wore black, but also from various antics like being sexist towards women, antagonistic to journalists and getting thrown in jail. 12 albums later, all four members are on the "wrong" side of 40, producing calmer and more melodic hit singles. They admit they have mellowed – "people *do* that with age" – even to the extent of asking **Rolf Harris** to play didgeridoo on "Dreamtime", their last album. Unfortunately, he wasn't available . . .



SWING OUT SISTER



RETNA

▲ Swing Out Sister, left to right: Andy Connell, Martin Jackson and Corinne Drewery.

● **SWING OUT SISTER:** Singer **Corinne Drewery** is an ex-fashion student from Nottingham who used to design twin-sets for *Marks & Spencers* and sing a bit with rock/jazz ensemble **Working Week**. She was forced to join Swing Out Sister by her flatmate, who just happened to be manager of **Martin Jackson** (ex-**Magazine**, a trendy arty new wave group) and **Andy Connell** (ex-**A Certain Ratio**, a trendy arty funk group), both from Manchester. The trio's first single as Swing Out Sister, "Blue Mood", was released twice and flopped twice. The second, "Breakout" ("inspired", they claim, "by the World Cup"), was a huge hit. Sensibly, even the *group* hate their less-than-snappy name.

THE STYLE COUNCIL

● **THE STYLE COUNCIL:** were formed in early 1983 by **Paul Weller** (born **John William Weller**, 25/5/58), having abandoned punk-mod pioneers **The Jam** at the height of their success because he wanted to try something different and more flexible. His permanent partner is keyboard player **Mick Talbot**, and there is also a floating cast of "Honorary Councillors", two of whom – drummer **Steve White** and singer **Dee C. Lee** (previously with **Wham!**, now also with her own solo career) – are semi-permanent. They mix soul, jazz, funk and pop with Paul's earnest, wordy and frequently explicitly political lyrics and he spent much of last year helping Red Wedge, the Labour Party-affiliated left wing political collective, to get off the ground (possibly in an attempt to make up for the time, long long ago, when The Jam released an LP called "All Mod Cons" and Paul claimed to be an ardent supporter of **Margaret Thatcher**'s Conservative government). He recently split up with his long term girlfriend **Jill**, though both he and Dee C. Lee strongly deny persistent rumours that they are going out with each other.

● **Paul Weller once said ...**

● "I'm very proud of the fact that I can cook, iron and wash my own clothes."

● "I sleep as God intended me to – if we were meant to wear clothes at night he would have given us chimneys." (??????)

● "I don't like the crappy slogans Wham! have got: "Make it Big", "Go For It". Go for *what*? An all year suntan?"

● "There's no point writing my memoirs or anything like that because they'd be so bloody boring. *And* only three pages long."

▲ **Above left, The Jam in 1980, left to right: Bruce Foxton, Rick Buckler and – kipping down the front – Paul Weller.**

◄ **Left, The Style Council now: Paul Weller (left) and "Merton" Mick Talbot.**

T

TALKING HEADS



● **TALKING HEADS:** were formed by eccentric ex-art student **David Byrne**, who abandoned original names **The Artistics** and **The Autistics** for Talking Heads, the technical term for head-only shots of pundits talking on TV. In the late '70s their strange, jerky songs – "about buildings and food" as they themselves have boasted – won them a large cult audience. They've recently indulged in a smattering of solo diversions: Byrne has done a ballet score, film and theatre music and collaborated with arty "sound-sculptor" **Brian Eno**; guitarist **Jerry Harrison** has made a solo LP; and drummer **Chris Frantz** and bassist **Tina Weymouth**, a husband-and-wife team, have tinkered with their bizarre playschool rap group **Tom Tom Club**. Despite all this, Talking Heads as a group are currently at their most successful ever with their "Little Creatures" and "True Stories" LPs, the latter also a film and book by David Byrne.

◄ **Talking Heads, left to right: Jerry Harrison, David Byrne, Tina Weymouth and Chris Frantz.**

TEARS FOR FEARS



RETNA

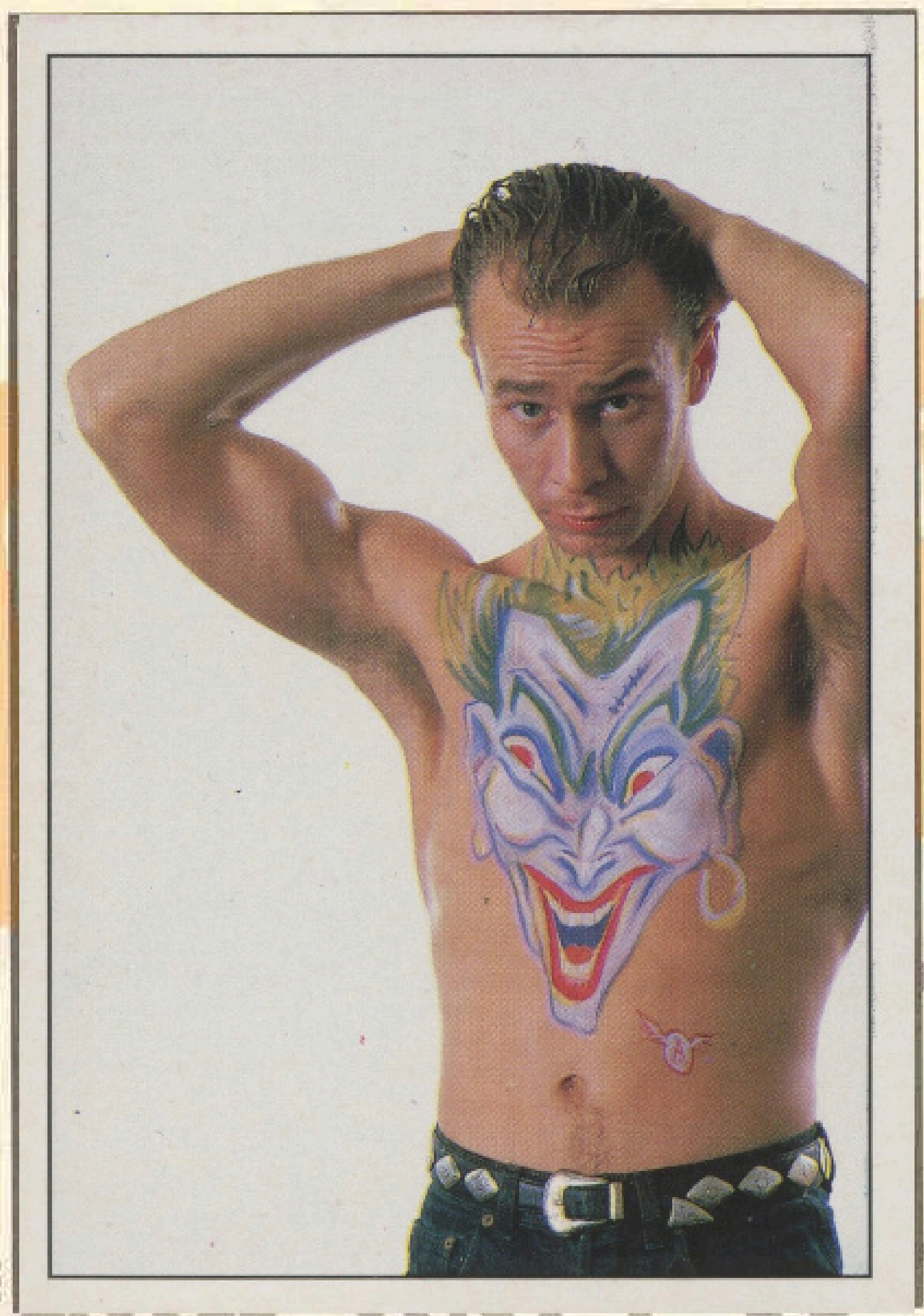
▲ **TFF: Curt Smith (left) and Roland Orzabal.**

● **TEARS FOR FEARS: Roland Jaime Orzabal de la Quintana** and the more prosaically named **Curt Smith** met in Curt's bedroom when they were both 13. In their late teens they formed an embarrassing ska band, **Graduate**, and then the duo Tears For Fears, helped by home-studio owner **Ian Stanley**, who is now an integral part of the group and also writes with Roland for his own group, **Mancrab**. Tears For Fears (their name was inspired by **Arthur Janov**'s *The Primal Scream* – a book advocating a cure from neurosis through free expression of emotion) found that their gentle early songs were frequently dismissed as "wimpy", but their second LP "Songs From The Big Chair", and singles like "Shout" and "Everybody Wants To Rule The World" were much tougher, punchier and more popular. They caused a storm for refusing to appear at Live Aid, though they later donated the proceeds from several concerts to the cause. They've spent the last year in hibernation, preparing a long-awaited third album.

● **Background: Mod "gear" from the first time around – before Paul Weller – a hat from 1963 and some earrings from 1964.**

T

THE THE


CBS

▲ Matt Johnson of The The.

● **THE THE:**
● The The are actually just a 25 year old bloke called **Matt Johnson** who has recorded under this name since 1979, with a varying selection of helpers.
● Years ago he was in a scratchy independent group called **The Gadgets.**
● His first proper album, "Burning Blue Soul", wasn't released under the name The The but as a Matt Johnson LP for some strange reason.
● His second album, "Soul Mining" from 1982, features a piano solo from *Tube* presenter **Jools Holland**.
● His third album, "The Pornography Of Despair", was never released because he "wasn't happy with it".
● His fourth album, "Infected", was released at the end of last year and is full of dark, horrifying songs about death, the state of the world, and slightly unpleasant things in general – nevertheless it gave him his first hit, the haunting "Heartland".
● He took a year off in 1985 which he spent "just wandering round my flat watching *Ceefax*, drinking, making a general nuisance of myself and thinking what I wanted to do."
● He shot a harrowing video for the whole of the "Infected" album, visiting a Peruvian jail, an American brothel and a Bolivian jungle.
● He claims he's very shy.
● He owns a portable compact disc player.

THOMPSON TWINS


RETNA

● **THOMPSON TWINS:** The successful pop trio of **Tom Bailey**, **Alannah Currie** and **Joe Leeway** are named after a couple of cartoon characters in French cartoonist **Herge**'s "cult" *Tin Tin* books. They emerged from the original Thompson Twins, who were a large, ramshackle hippie-ish band who toured round for a couple of years encouraging people to bang along on bits of old scrap metal from cars. After a string of hits – things like "Love On Your Side", "Doctor Doctor" and "You Take Me Up" – Joe, whose role beyond "set design" had always been rather obscure, left to pursue a solo and "acting" career. Meanwhile Tom and Alannah moved to Ireland last year to work on new material after sadly losing their baby.

◄ The Thompson Twins: Alannah Currie (left) and Tom Bailey.

TWO PEOPLE


POLYDOR

▲ Two People: Noel Ram (left) and Mark Stevenson.

● **TWO PEOPLE:** are "good mates" **Mark Stevenson** and **Noel Ram** from Liverpool, who write thunderingly good pop tunes. Two People have released a handful of singles, including "This Is The Shirt" and "Mouth Of An Angel", one LP, "Naked", and confess to being somewhat obsessed with religion. At least *Mark* is. "My flat's like a church," he explains. "It's full of crucifixes, religious prints and I've got a pulpit in my living room. I think it's really funny!" This obsession is also evident in their lyrics which seem to ponder rather a lot over religion and, er, sex. "I'm just very interested in religion and sensuality. Especially sensuality . . ." Oh dear.

TINA TURNER



● **TINA TURNER:** was born **Ann Bullock** on 26/11/40, and was once a cotton-picker in Tennessee. Then followed a stormy marriage to **Ike Turner**, with whom – as **Ike & Tina Turner** – she made some classic hits of the '60s, such as "River Deep, Mountain High" and "Nutbush City Limits". After years of suffering abuse, Tina walked out on Ike and set about re-building her career alone, which, after another seven years of obscurity, she did in a spectacular fashion. Her recent singles have been mostly tear-jerking ballads, but on-stage she is a "raunchy" and tireless performer, and always has a vast number of male stars (e.g. **Mick Jagger** and **David Bowie**) queueing to work with her. She starred as an evil temptress and dictator in the film *Mad Max III*, and recently published an autobiography, detailing her traumatic years with Ike. She is now a devout Buddhist.

● **Background: The 1959 equivalent of the compact disc player – portable auto-change record players with "separate tone and volume controls"(!).**

U

UB40



ANDY CATLIN

● **UB40:** are the most successful reggae band in the world, as the eight members delight in reminding people. Their first single, "King"/"Food For Thought", reached the Top 10 despite lacking any major record company backing and since then they've stubbornly held onto as much independence as possible, staying in their native Birmingham, running their own company, DEP International, and, until recently, running their own record label for other reggae groups. Their songs show a fairly pronounced political conscience but they provocatively claim that these days they often care less about people on the dole and reckon they've become "boring old farts". Not *too* boring, though, to tour Russia last autumn . . .

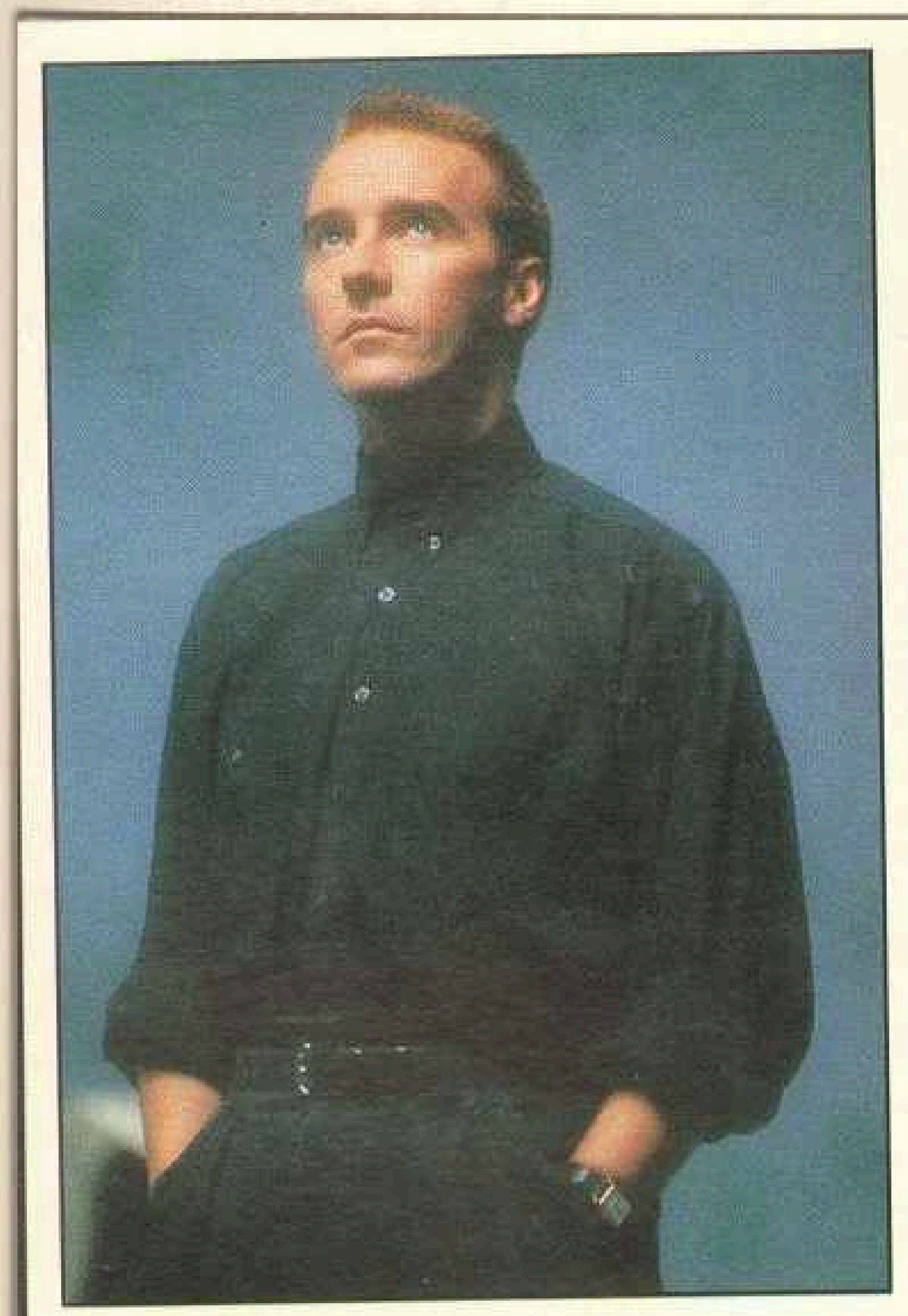
◄ **UB40, left to right: Mickey Virtue, Astro, Ali Campbell, Norman Hassan, Brian Travers (back) and Earl Falconer, Jimmy Brown and Robin Campbell in front.**

ULTRAVOX



▲ **Ultravox, left to right: Billy Currie, Midge Ure and Chris Cross.**

● **ULTRAVOX:** were a strange, unknown phenomenon before **Midge Ure** joined and then – *voila!* – instant success! They'd already been going for five years fronted by singer **John Foxx**, and had inspired countless would-be popstars with their austere electronic music – the most notable being **Gary Numan**. Three albums later, Midge stepped in – he was invited round to rehearsals and ended up writing half of their "Vienna" album. This was a huge success, and Ultravox have been turning out their epic hits ever since. In 1985 the group took a breather to let Midge pursue his solo career. Bass player **Chris Cross** and keyboards "whiz" **Billy Currie** spent the time building recording studios at their homes; meanwhile drummer **Warren Cann** left the group. Ultravox are now back in operation again with their album "U-Vox", and don't seem worried that their fans may have deserted them. "I think if we only appealed to young people, we might have a problem," admits Midge. "But Ultravox have always had a hard-core following of sort of *adult* people . . ."



● **MIDGE URE:**
● was born 10/10/53 in Cambuslang, a suburb of Glasgow.
● Was painfully shy with the opposite sex when at school and even shoved a cream cake in a girl's face to get rid of her.
● Used to have hideously long hair and wear spectacles and dangerously flared jeans.
● Joined a group called **Salvation** which turned into '70s "teenybop" group **Slik** who weren't allowed to write or play their own songs.
● Was once offered the job of singer in **The Sex Pistols**, but turned it down to join the not v. successful **Rich Kids**.
● Wrote "Do They Know It's Christmas" with **Bob Geldof** and helped him to organise **Band Aid** and Live Aid.
● Secretly married model **Annabel Giles** on a beach somewhere hot.
● Is a great "romantic" and loves technology, junk and vintage cars.

U2



RETNA

▲ **U2, left to right: Adam Clayton, The Edge, Larry Mullen and, in front, Bono.**

● **U2:** Undoubtedly one of the most successful groups ever to emerge from Ireland, U2 started back in 1976 when drummer **Larry Mullen** pinned a message to the noticeboard of his "progressive comprehensive", Dublin's Mount Temple School. Three people answered – bassist **Adam Clayton**, singer **Paul Hewson** and guitarist **Dave Evans**, the last two also respectively known as **Bono Vox** and **The Edge**, nicknames they'd assumed when pretending to be in Lipton Village, a fantasy world they and a few friends had invented. Originally they were called **Feedback**, and began by playing the usual embarrassing schoolboy cover versions, but soon they developed the concise guitar-based sound overlaid with Bono's overpowering singing that was to make fans go wibbly the world over. The four of them are very earnest and concerned about what they do and all but Adam are Christians. Their songs usually have a "message" and they broke a long rest period last year to play a series of Amnesty International benefits across America with **Sting**, **Peter Gabriel** and others.



RETNA

● **BONO:** born Paul Hewson on 10/5/60, Bono is U2's deeply sincere and strongly opinionated singer. He doesn't just *talk* about things that matter to him, either – he acts. For instance after meeting the Irish Prime Minister **Garret Fitzgerald** he agreed to sit on a special committee with him (though he later said he was disillusioned by the experience), he belted out a solo song at the last moment for the "Sun City" anti-apartheid album, he's an active supporter of Amnesty International and he's spent much of his spare time over the last couple of years travelling the world visiting places like Ethiopia in secret to learn at first hand what's really going on. Nevertheless he's said to be a cheery enough bloke, despite driving a large converted hearse. He still lives in Ireland and is married to a rather attractive person called **Alison**.

V

W

WE'VE GOT A FUZZBOX AND WE'RE GONNA USE IT



● **WE'VE GOT A FUZZBOX AND WE'RE GONNA USE IT:** are four sprightly young lasses from Birmingham – **Vix**, **Tina**, **Jo** and **Mags** (they won't admit to surnames) – whose glittersome career began by mistake at the beginning of 1986. "We told our friends who were in a band that we could play and we'd take the place of their support group who'd let them down. We didn't *mean* it . . ." But they "played" it anyway, were spotted by an independent record company owner and within months had given up school and jobs to make their screechaway punk rock-type tunes. They are spirited, immensely funny and "talentless. Though we're not as awful as we used to be. Anyway, it would be really boring to be good musicians."

◄ The Fuzzboxes, left to right: Jo, Mags, Vix and Tina.

VAN HALEN



▲ Van Halen, left to right: Sammy Hagar, Alex Van Halen (back), Michael Anthony and Eddie Van Halen (front).

● **VAN HALEN:** Popular amongst heavy metal fans for years, principally because of guitarist and band-founder **Eddie Van Halen**'s squealing guitar "licks", but two things really broadened their appeal: Eddie's famous solo on **Michael Jackson**'s "Beat It" and their huge tuneful pop hit "Jump" in 1984. After that their charismatic but egotistical singer **David Lee Roth** either walked out or was sacked, depending on which version you believe; both sides agree, though, that he was more interested in making a film (which then fell through anyway). Contrary to most people's expectations his solo career wobbled badly and Van Halen, once they'd roped in a new (but rather old) singer, **Sammy Hagar**, have gone, as they say, "from strength to strength".

KIM WILDE



● **KIM WILDE:** was born 18/11/60 in Hertfordshire. In the early '80s, Kim became hugely successful with songs written by her famous father, '50s rock'n'roll star **Marty Wilde** and her brother, failed '70s teeny-bopper idol **Ricky Wilde**. Then disaster struck and her singles started to flop. Towards the end of last year, drastic measures were required and Kim recorded a cover version of the ancient classic "You Keep Me Hanging On", which elevated her to number two in the charts. Kim says she's now more self-assured and sensible although "sometimes people take me far too seriously!"

THE WOODENTOPS

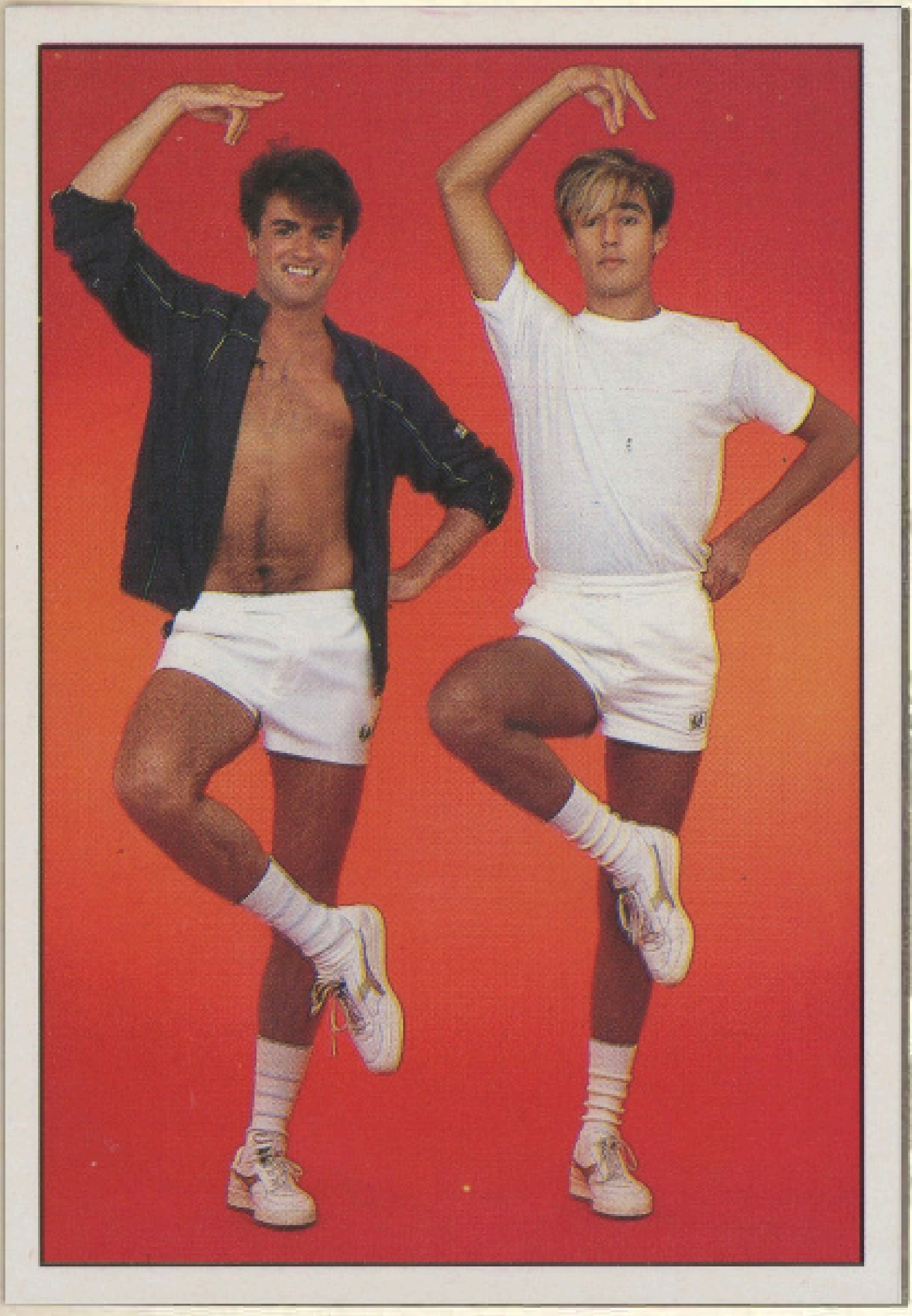


● **THE WOODENTOPS:** describe themselves as "the shortest group in the world". They are also five London persons who make rumbly 'n' folky dance tunes and reckon their music is very "happy". Beginning life as "an *awful* busking band" four years ago, The Woodentops eventually became "quite good". There followed a stream of manic/melodic singles and a splendid debut LP "Giant", which singer **Rolo McGinty** quite rightly describes as "*brilliant!* I lost over a stone making that record – the nerves!" Nervous, energetic and intelligent, Rolo confesses to being as "completely useless as a normal human being. I suppose I'm a bit mad really, but at least I'm polite!" Which he is.

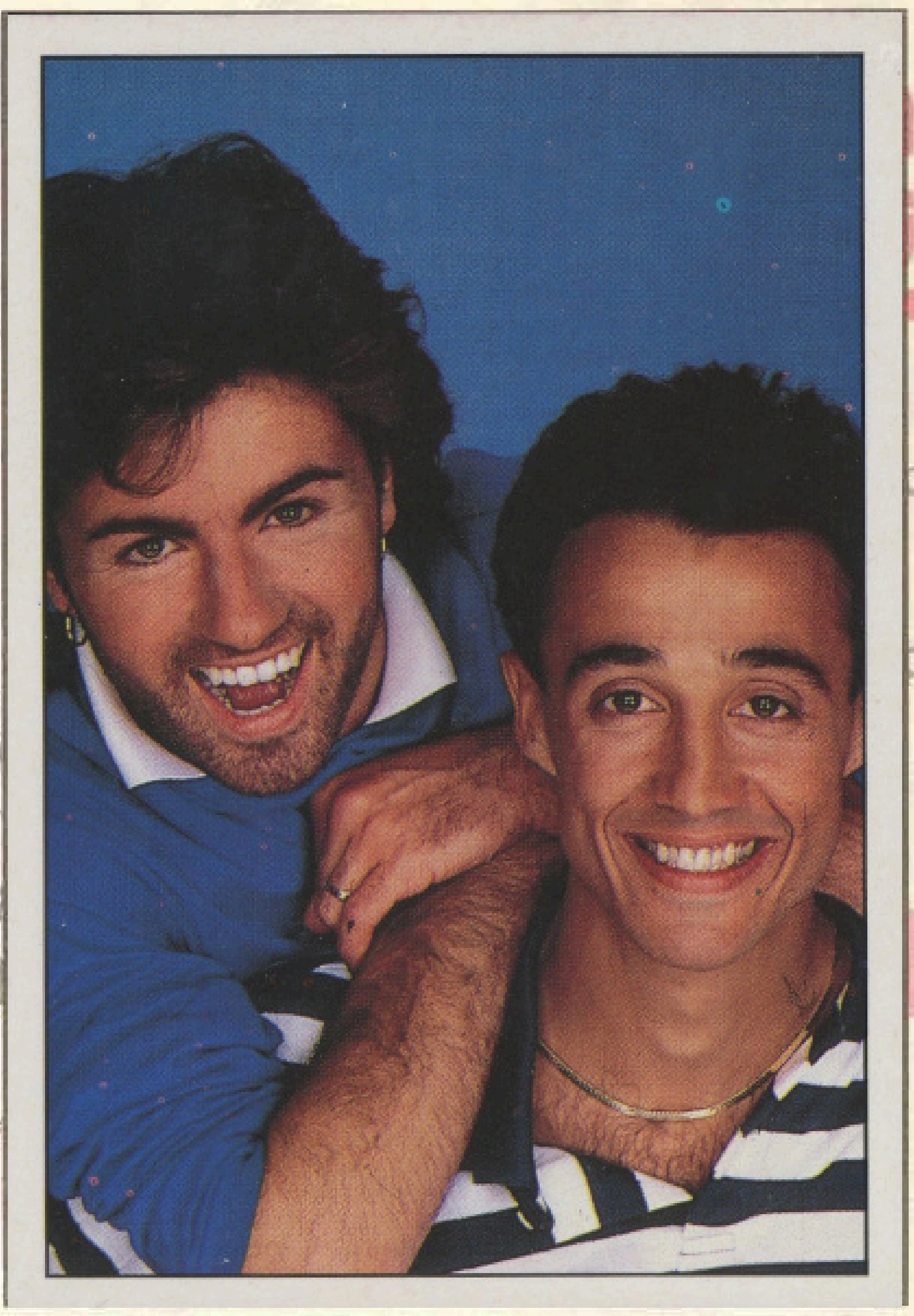
◄ The Woodentops, left to right: Rolo McGinty, Benny Staples, Frank de Freitas, Simon Mawby and Alice Thompson.

• **Background: Groo! Oxford bags, 1974's most swanky leg attire and their usual partner in crime, the bomber jacket (the "George Michael" is no relation, by the way).**

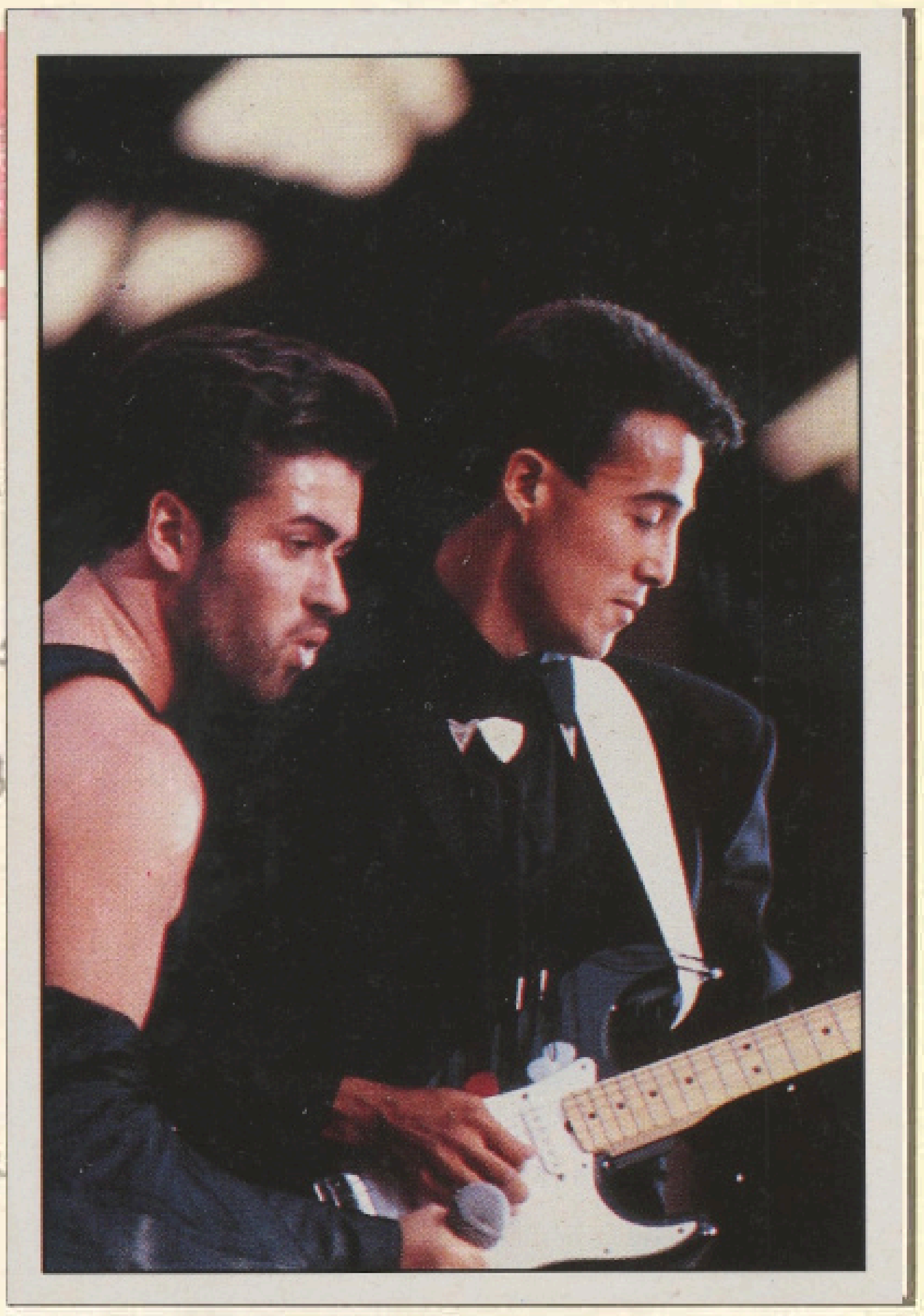
WHAM!



▲ Wham! at the very start of their career . . .



▲ Wham! at the very end of their career . . .



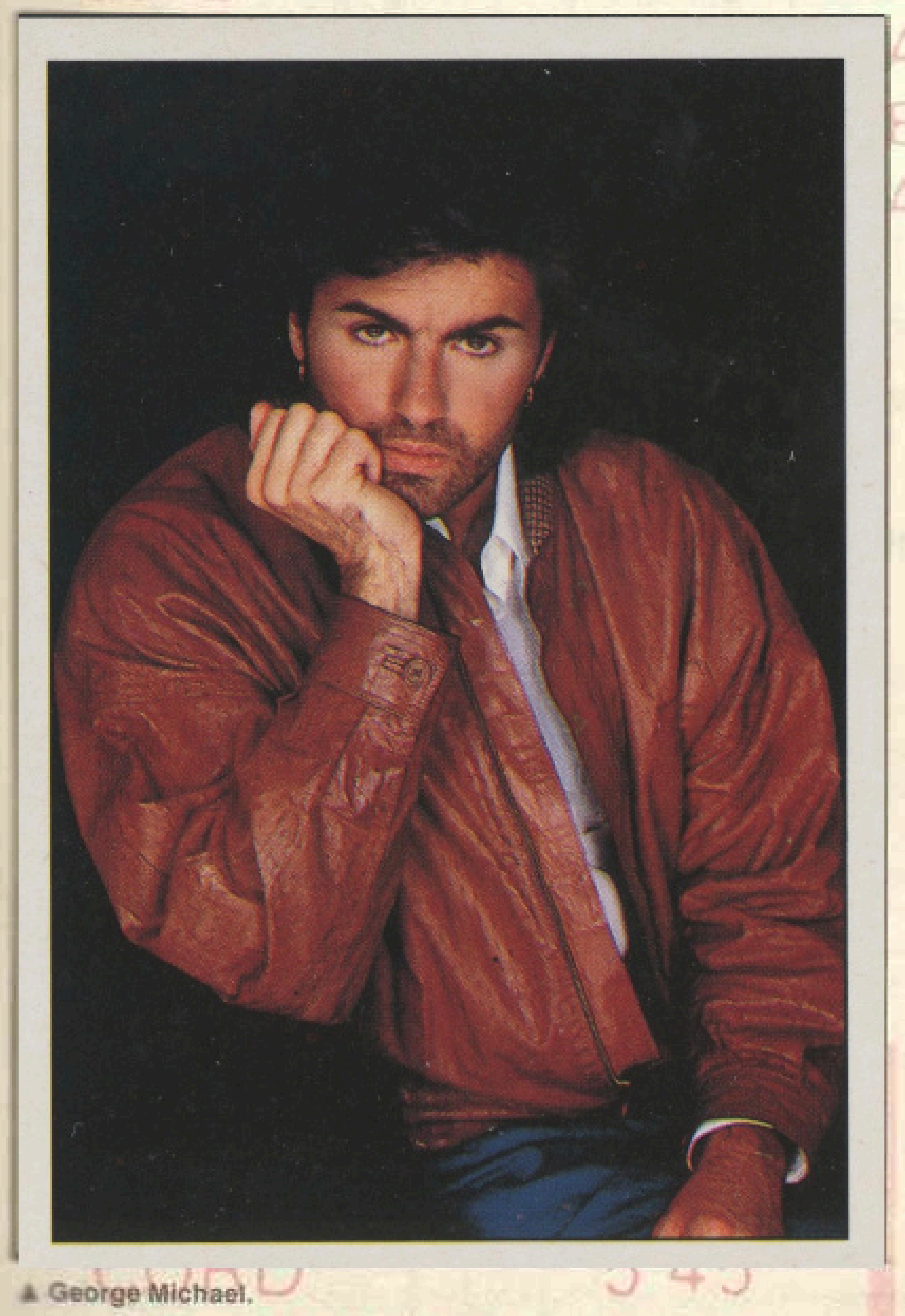
▲ The final concert (sob) . . .

● **WHAM:** It was on **George Michael's** first day at Bushey Meads comprehensive in North London that he met a "loudmouth" called **Andrew Ridgeley** who'd already been there a year. Andrew was a rather trendy sort (or so *he* thought); George, by comparison, certainly wasn't. "He looked a bit of a wimp," reminisced Andrew later. "He had these great big steel-rimmed glasses, loads of curly hair, he was very plump and he had one eyebrow going right across like a pair of seagull's wings." But at break that first day, he was able to earn Andrew's respect by sending him flying to the ground during a game called "King Of The Wall". From then on they were best friends. George smartened up, got his hair cut, learnt to pluck his eyebrows, got contact lenses and became a "soul boy".

At 16 the two of them decided to form a band, playing ska like the "hip" groups of the day – **The Specials**, **Madness** etc. They called themselves **The Executive**, wrote a song called "Rude Boy" and soon split up, but the two of them were bitten with the bug. One day George scribbled down some lyrics while working as a cinema usher and dreamt up a melody while he was on the bus; Andrew helped him bash the song into shape. It was called "Careless Whisper" and they were proud as punch of it (even if George's sisters *did* tease him that it should have been called "Tuneless Whisper").

More songs followed – "Club Tropicana", "Wham! Rap" – and after endless rejections they got a record deal and released the latter in the summer of 1982. It wasn't a hit but got them loads of attention because it was about unemployment; and the follow up, "Young Guns (Go For It)", "flew" into the top ten, followed by "Wham Rap" (new version), "Bad Boys" and "Club Tropicana".

From then on Wham! couldn't be stopped. Every subsequent single reached number one bar "Last Christmas" (the biggest selling record ever *not* to) which was kept at number two by the **Band Aid** single – which featured George anyway. But all wasn't well. George Michael became more and more sick of "the pressures of fame" and being in a young and energetic pop group. Andrew Ridgeley got fed up with the concerted press campaign to portray him as a drunken lout and as the totally useless and pointless member of Wham!. In 1985, after triumphantly touring China, they secretly resolved to part – the actual announcement was precipitated at the beginning of 1986 when Wham!'s management agreed to be sold to a South African-associated company without consulting the group. After a deeply emotional final concert at Wembley on 28th June it was – sniff – all over. But how very, very good they'd been . . .



▲ George Michael.



PICTORIAL PRESS

▲ Andrew Ridgeley.

GEORGE

● **GEORGE MICHAEL:** born 25/6/63, his full Greek name is **Yorgos Kyriakou Panayiotou**, nickname **Yog**. His solo career started long before Wham! finished – first with the slow ballad "Careless Whisper", then with the weepy funeral-paced "A Different Corner". "Wham! singles," he explained at the time, "aren't about depression and broken hearts – Wham! singles are pop singles with energy." He now insists that his future solo work won't *just* be "laid-back" middle-of-the-road ballads. As well as recording his solo album and helping his old chum **David Austin** on *his* LP, George has already done a duet with **Aretha Franklin** – "I Knew You Were Waiting For Me" – and was supposed to be doing one with **Michael Jackson**, though he now reckons he may have blown his chances by talking about it too much.

ANDREW

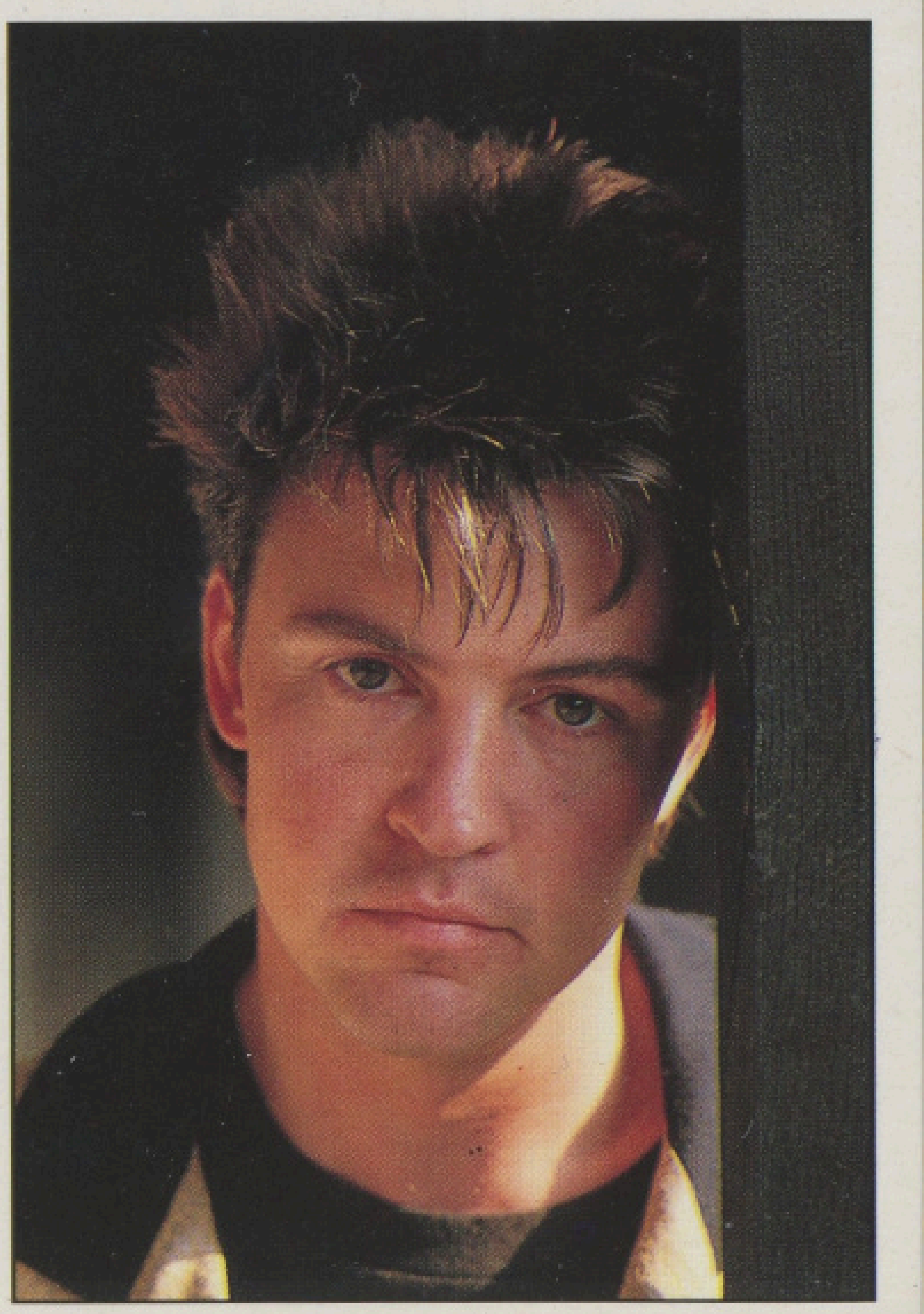
● **ANDREW RIDGELEY:** born 26/1/63, his solo plans have been rather unclear since Wham! split. He has always been modest about his musical skills – "I can sing, but not as well as George so what's the point?" – and is believed to have no intention of making further records. Instead his heart is set on motor-racing – the hobby he took up back in the Wham! days and which earned him press ridicule as he suffered a number of humiliating crashes – and on becoming an actor. Amongst his rumoured parts are a **Harrison Ford**-type figure in an adventure film and an "over-the-top pop star" in a film alongside ex-**Young Ones Rik Mayall** and **Adrian Edmonson**. Meanwhile he's been living and racing in Monaco in the company of **Don Johnson**'s old girlfriend, model **Donya Fiorentino**, whom he's rumoured either to have got engaged to or to have split up with about twice a week . . .

X Y Z

Erm ... there *is* no 'x', actually, so lets move swiftly on to ...

Y

PAUL YOUNG



SCOPE

● **PAUL YOUNG:** born 17/1/56 in Luton, Paul grew up with conflicting musical tastes which he was always trying to resolve. He loved soul music *and* heavy metal but unfortunately there weren't many local bands who specialised in both. Paul left an apprenticeship at Vauxhall Motors to join **Streetband** (an extremely dodgy "novelty" group) but their one-off hit, "Toast", did him more harm than good. "It moved a lot of people to be sick," he says. Next he sang with soul group **Q Tips**, who finally disbanded after playing a staggering 750 concerts, due to lack of success with their records. A spell playing guitar with **Tight Fit**'s backing band led him to start his solo career and his third single, the **Marvin Gaye** classic "Wherever I Lay My Hat", went to number one in the charts. Nowadays, despite a few problems with his voice (he has to be careful with it or he "loses" the top notes), he's a bit of a "jet-setter" who enjoys fast cars, good food and going out with model-girls but *isn't* too hot at wind-surfing (i.e. he falls off a lot).

Z

ZODIAC MINDWARP & THE LOVE REACTION



▲ **The Mindwarps, left to right: Cobalt Stargazer (behind), Slam Thunderhide, Zodiac Mindwarp (with interesting "headgear") and Kid Chaos.**

● **ZODIAC MINDWARP & THE LOVE REACTION:**

● Singer **Zodiac Mindwarp** claims he comes from the planet Freakout, "a rainbow-hued world that lives behind my eyes."

● In reality he is called **Mark Manning**, comes from Bradford and is the ex-design editor of defunct pop magazine *Flexipop*.

● The rest of the group, **Slam Thunderhide** (drums) **Kid Chaos** (bass) and **Cobalt Stargazer** (guitar) all fib wildly about their origins too.

● They travel with a group of roadies, all with equally silly names (like **Evil Bastard**), who pretend to be part of the group.

● They all try to speak in fake American accents.

● They claimed to be part of the "pyschedelic revival" – but they weren't really.

● The group, according to Zodiac, "were thrown together to amuse the Gods, who were bored on Mount Olympus."

● They are not very handsome.

* ZZ TOP



● **ZZ TOP:** 17 years ago, a trio of long-haired geezers from Texas decided to form "a little 'ol boogie band". **Billy Gibbons** (guitar), **Dusty Hill** (bass) and **Frank** "I don't have a beard, actually" **Beard** (drums) (for it was they) have since become millionaires by releasing mega-hits like "Legs" and "Sharp Dressed Man". ZZ Top aren't timid – they share the stage with a live buffalo, turkey buzzards and rattlesnakes while shaking their beards and twanging their fur-covered guitars. Their only problem is driving in open-topped cars: they can't smoke because the wind blows their beards up into their faces causing something of a fire "hazard" (except for Frank Beard, who hasn't got one of course) ...

◄ **ZZ Top, left to right: Dusty Hill, Frank Beard and Billy Gibbons.**

● **Background: How to achieve that insto ZZ top/Zodiac Mindwarp "unshaven" look with no effort: false unsightly facial hair from 1967.**

✱ How to complete your collection ✱ and order your last few stickers...

• IF THERE IS A MAIL ORDER CARD WITH THIS ALBUM, PLEASE USE THAT TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.

✱THINGS TO REMEMBER

• Each sticker costs 5p (including postage).

• We prefer to receive payment by **CHEQUE** or **POSTAL ORDER**, but you can also send U.K. postage stamps. If you do send stamps, please ensure that none of them are higher than 13p in value. **CHEQUES** should be made out to **PANINI STICKERS**.

• You may only order 20 stickers.

• This mail order service is *only* for Great Britain and Ireland. (All payments must be in STERLING. Republic of Ireland — please do not send punts.)

• SORRY — BUT WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT ONE ORDER FROM EACH COLLECTOR AND YOU CAN ONLY ORDER ONE STICKER OF EACH NUMBER.

✱WRITING THE LETTER

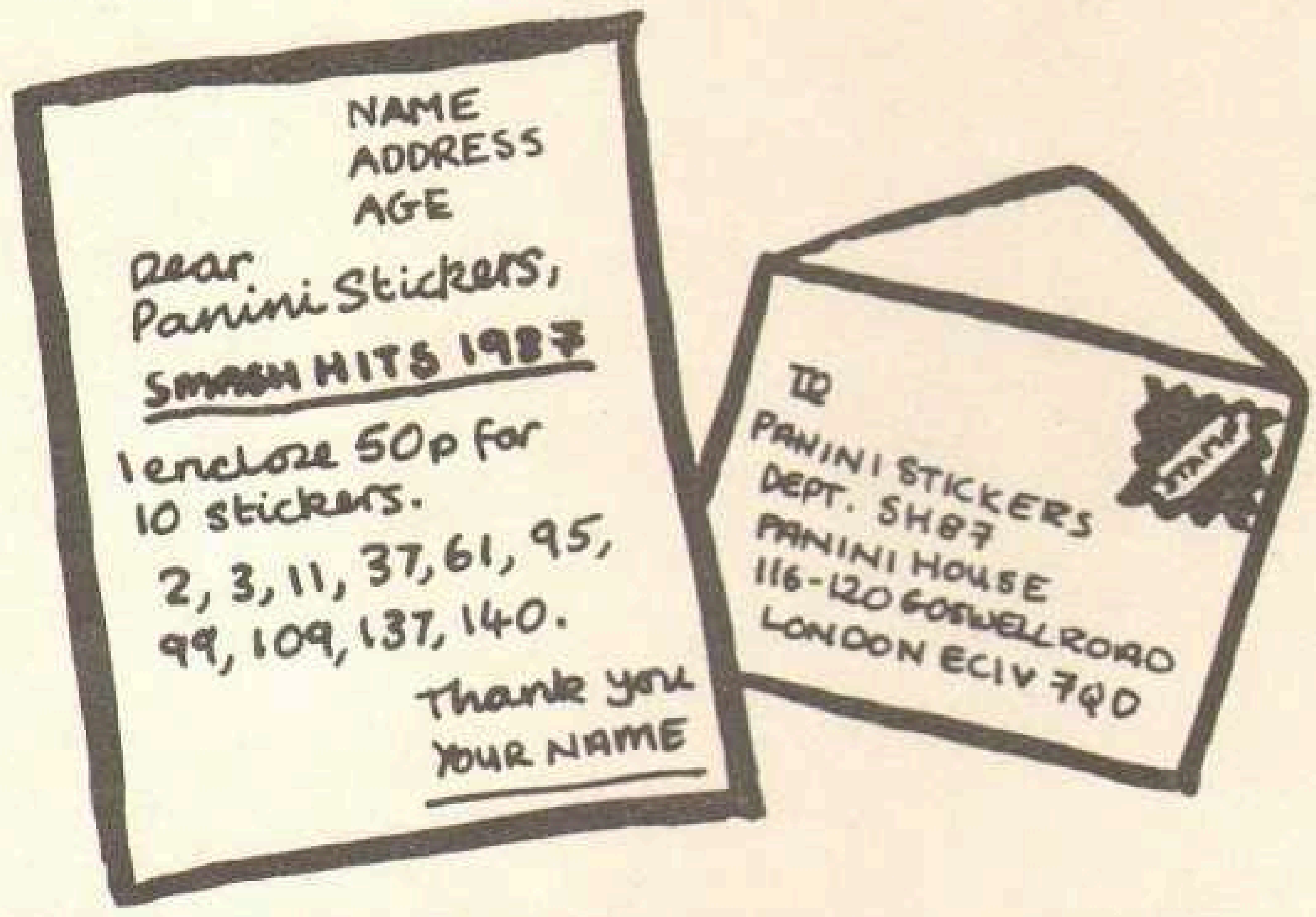
• Get a sheet of paper and print your **NAME**, **ADDRESS** and **AGE** on it.

• **PRINT** in large letters **SMASH HITS 1987**, so we know what collection you want.

• Then list the numbers of the stickers you want, in order please.

• Put the letter and payment in a stamped envelope and send to:

Panini Stickers
Dept. SH87
Panini House
116-120 Goswell Road
London EC1V 7QD



✱SWOPPING

• The quickest way to complete your album is by making sure you swop all your doubles. Get together with friends and exchange stickers whenever you can. You'll be amazed how quickly your album fills when you swop.

How you can help Panini to raise £50,000 for Cystic Fibrosis!

✱WHAT IS CYSTIC FIBROSIS?

• **Cystic Fibrosis** is a hereditary illness, and as yet incurable, affecting the lungs and stomach, making breathing and digestion difficult for CF children. Through regular exercise, physiotherapy and medication, children with CF can lead a fairly normal life. But we want to find a complete cure for them, and we also want to ensure that all CF children are able to receive the important treatment that makes such a difference to their lives — and this is where you can help!

✱HOW TO HELP - AND GET A FREE BADGE, TOO!

• As part of Panini's tenth birthday celebrations, we're aiming to turn empty sticker packets into money. How do we do this? Simple! For every 25 empty packets you send us, we'll give 12½p to the **CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH TRUST**. In return for your support, we'll send you a special Panini 10th Anniversary/Cystic Fibrosis badge!

So, when you've swopped Sade, stuck in Spandau Ballet and finally found Frankie — don't throw away your empty packets, send them to us and help to raise £50,000 for Cystic Fibrosis! There are five million Panini collectors out there, so the quicker you send in your 25 packets, the quicker the £50,000 will get to the CF Trust where it can be put to use immediately. Don't forget, *any* Panini packet can be sent.

✱HOW TO SEND IN YOUR EMPTY PACKETS

1. Collect together 25 empty sticker packets and place them in a stamped envelope.
2. Write your NAME and ADDRESS in CAPITAL LETTERS on a piece of paper. Please write clearly because we cannot send your badge if we cannot read your writing! Put this piece of paper in the envelope with the empty packets.
3. Address the envelope to:
   Panini Stickers,
   CF Appeal,
   P.O. Box 522.
   London, EC1V 7QD
4. Do not put any money in the envelope.
5. Under **NO** circumstances put orders for stickers in this envelope.
6. This appeal will only run during 1987. Do **not** send any packets after December 31st, 1987.

SMASH HITS

• Panini Stickers distribute 'Panini' albums and stickers throughout Great Britain and Ireland, and make every possible effort to ensure that most newsagents stock them for as long as they are in demand. Also, we guarantee that all the stickers in this collection are printed in equal quantities.

• Please allow 30 days for processing and delivery. If after this time you still have not received your stickers, please write to us at the address above and tell us the date of your original request, the title of the collection and the number of stickers ordered.

PRINTED IN ITALY BY
PANINI
EDIZIONI PANINI S.P.A. — MODENA

the SMASH HITS collection 1987

GREAT BRITAIN
DISTRIBUTOR FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
PANINI PUBLISHING LTD
116-120 GOSWELL ROAD, LONDON EC1V 7QD
25p